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MAY 2009

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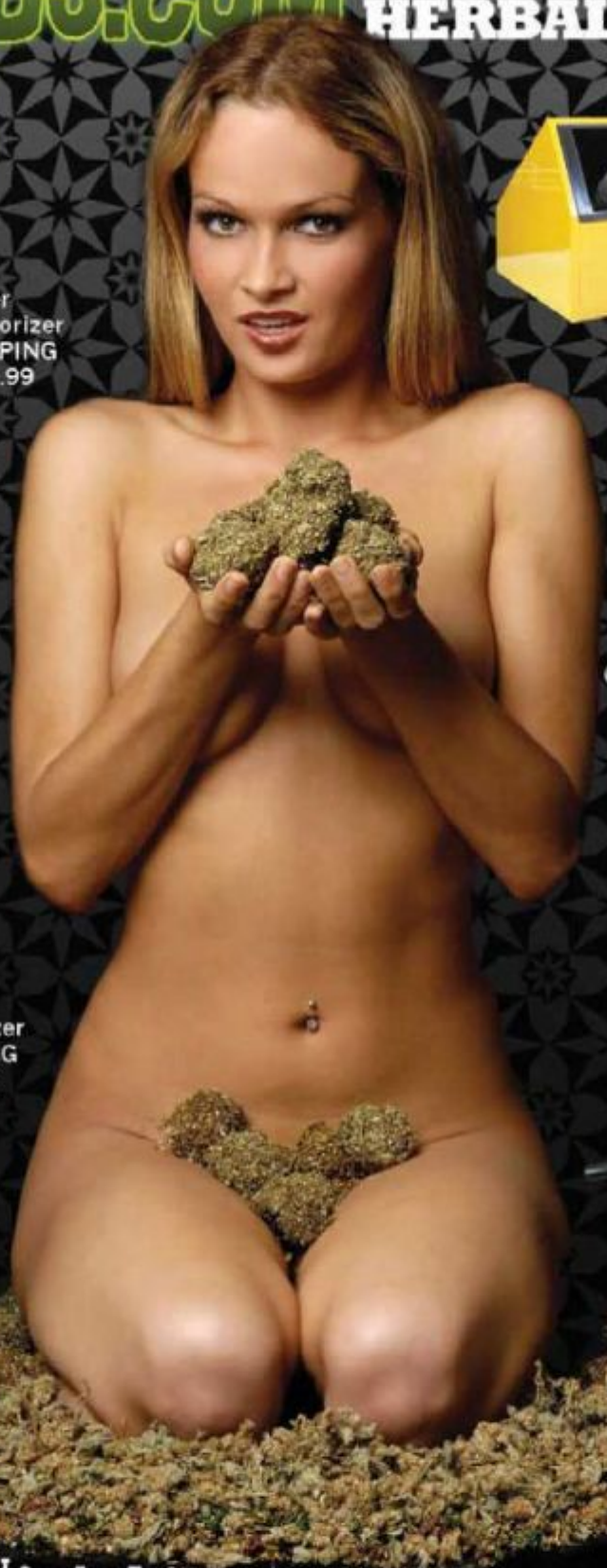
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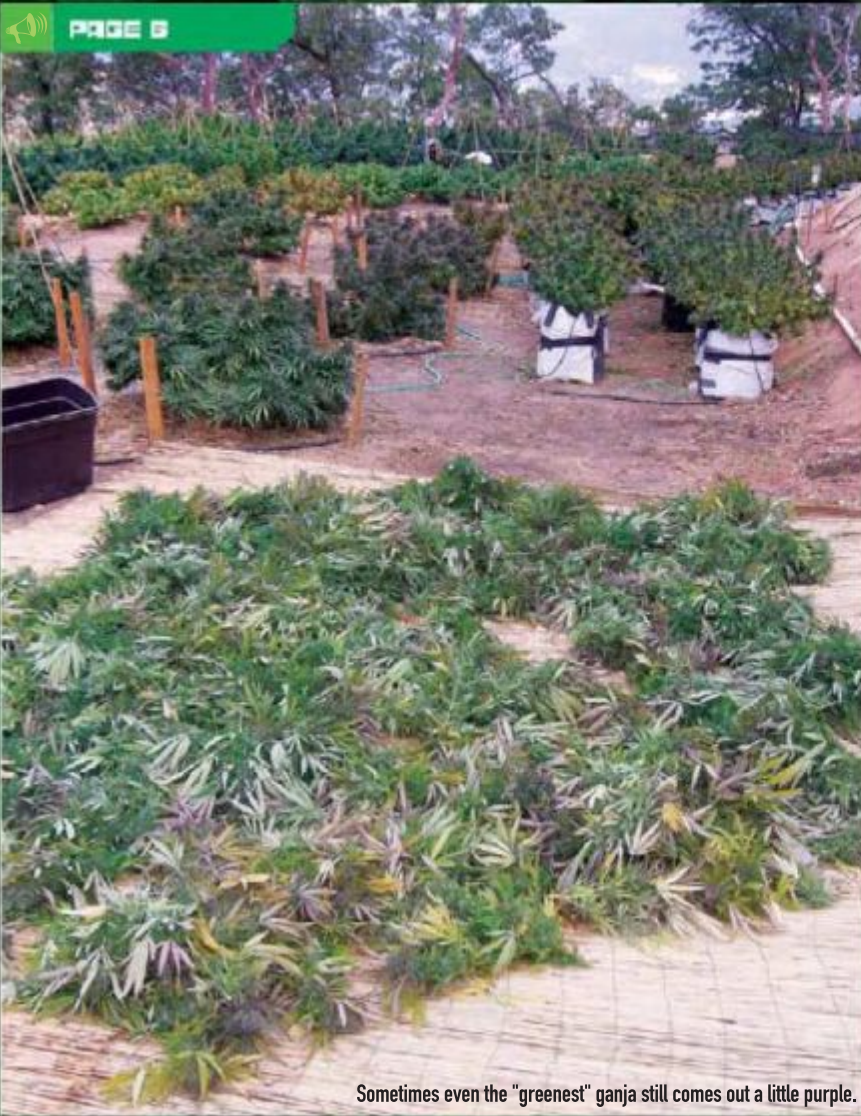


INTRODUCING:

THE BLACK



A newly-stabilized BCBD seed release, this black beauty is an epic yielder with a pleasing flavour and a potent narcotic stone. It is fast becoming a favourite addition to gardens large and small.



Sometimes even the "greenest" ganja still comes out a little purple.

WATER BEAR

THE GREEN ISSUE

You can certainly be forgiven for thinking that every issue of HIGH TIMES is a "green issue," given our consistent coverage of the world's greatest marijuana and how to grow your own. But it's also high time that cannabis smokers and growers started extending their definition of truly "green" ganja to include some basic concerns for the well-being of Mother Earth.

Check out "Weeditopia Emerging," starting on page 42, for an in-depth look at the many ways that properly cultivated pot can help save the planet, including a wide variety of tips on how to lower your own "cannabis footprint" whether you're a grower, a smoker, or both—including the advantages of growing outdoors, how to find "certified" organic marijuana, saving energy and money by avoiding costly and damaging chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and how-to guides for brewing your own compost tea, constructing your own rain barrels and building your own worm box. We also profile a group of concerned Northern California herb growers who've begun organizing around these important eco-principles.

Also, don't miss the HIGH TIMES interview with Michael Reynolds, founder of Earthship Biotecture, which creates futuristically efficient homes made of natural and recycled materials by adopting (and updating) some of the oldest construction techniques known to man. Plus there's our special report on building your own home out of hemp!

Of course, the quickest, easiest and best way to create "greener" ganja would be to legalize it once and for all, so we can start growing local, organic, outdoor ganja right in our own backyards. Now that's a goal worth rolling towards!

David Bienenstock
Senior Editor

HIGH TIMES

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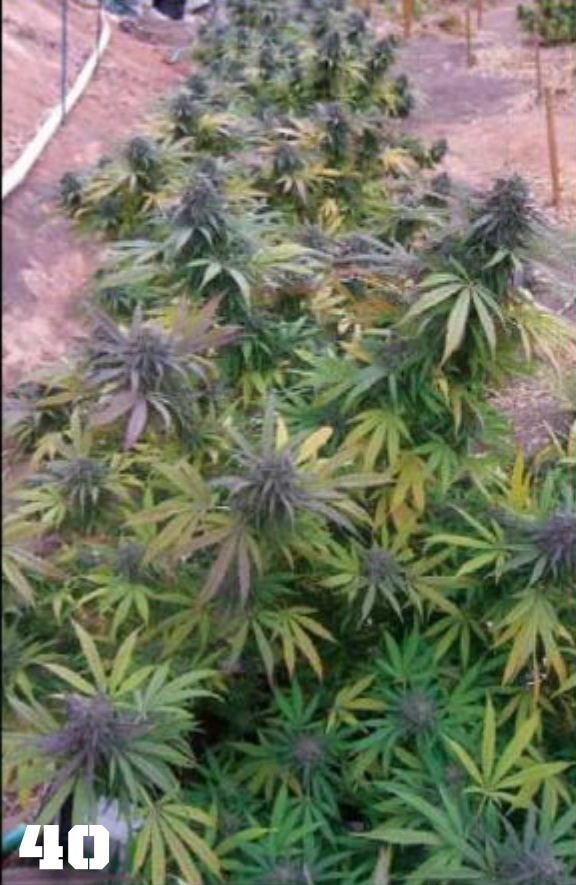
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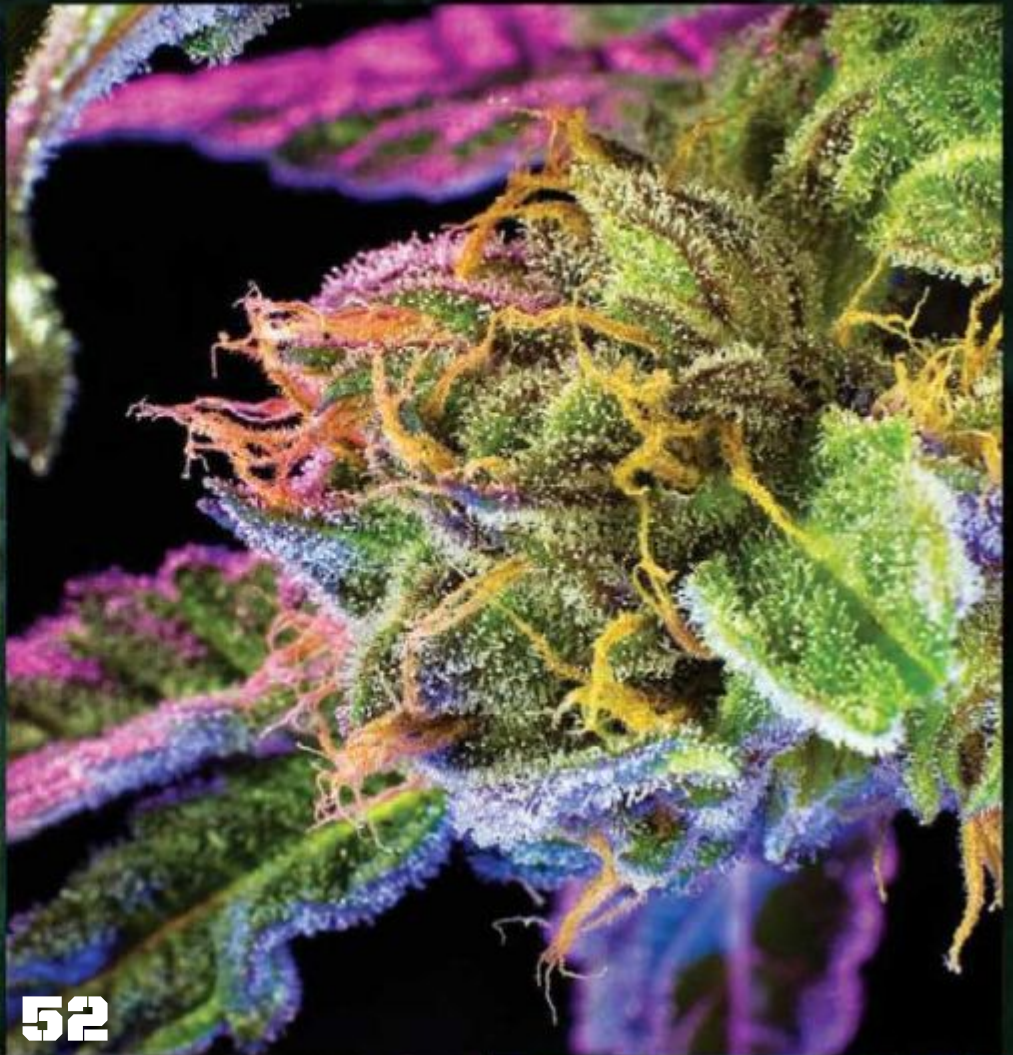
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HIGH TIMES



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By Dan Skye. Some of California's top med-pot activists are declaring victory in the War on Drugs, and a fresh look at new developments on the West Coast seems to support their claim. Plus: A look inside MediCann and two top pot competitions.

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By David Bienenstock. Learn how to save money *and* the planet while growing the greatest, greenest ganja on Earth, including tips on brewing compost tea, building your own worm box, finding certified organic marijuana and lowering your "cannabis footprint."

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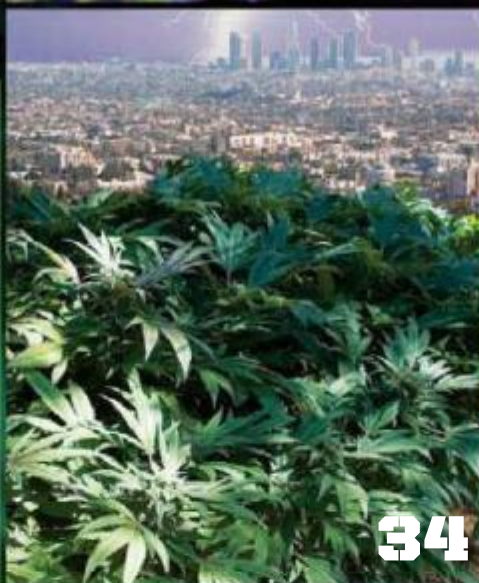
By Mamakind. Contrary to the belief of many in the US, Canada is still struggling with the same ill-conceived cannabis laws that Americans deal with. But tolerance does make a difference! Also: Check out our province-by-province breakdown of the best strains in the Great White North.

66 HIGH CLASS

By David Bienenstock. Earn a diploma in dank at Oaksterdam U., America's ultimate (and only) institution of "higher" learning.

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By Bobby Black. Ever dream of living off the grid and growin' dro right in your living room? With an eco-friendly Earthship house made from recycled materials you can! HT talks with architect Michael Reynolds about his visionary Earthship Biotechture.



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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

Our 400th issue; Mass-hole cops; High at the Inauguration; Stonehenge rocks!; Growroom giveaways; The master hoaxer; THC Expo; ShowBuzz; Hemp houses; Pot and mental health; Eagles of Death Metal; Tattoo-contest winners; Reviews; Vaporella; Miss HIGH TIMES; Almost Infamous; Brain Damage Control.

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According to acoustic experts, the Druids were rolling at Stonehenge.



STONEDHENGE ROCKS!

In the classic rock-documentary spoof *This Is Spinal Tap*, dimwitted Nigel Tufnel takes the stage in a cowl and cape and speaks spookily about the ancient Druids who hung out at Stonehenge: "Nobody knows who they were ... or what they were doing."

Well, now we know! It was Rave City, dude!

Rupert Till, an expert in acoustics and music technology at Huddersfield University in the UK, believes the standing stones had the right acoustics to amplify certain sounds. He even speculates that Stonehenge may have been used for ancient raves, because the standing stones had the ideal acoustics to amplify a "repetitive trance rhythm," he says.

Stonehenge is located in the English county of Wiltshire. Erected 4,500 years ago, the huge stones have long fascinated archaeologists and mystics. Although the site is partially collapsed now, Till theorizes that the original Stonehenge probably had a "very pleasant, almost concert-like acoustic."

400 MILE STONE

You're holding the 400th issue of **HIGH TIMES** in your hands. Those of you who own all 400 issues may have grandchildren—even great-grandchildren. We salute you! Here are some other notable 400s:

In 400 BC, Alexander the Great defeats the Persians, despite the superiority of their hash.

In 400 AD, chrysanthemums are introduced in Japan. On an equally pleasant note, the Goths are slaughtered by the Huns on the Danube River.

400 years ago, the Basque witch trials get underway, the largest witch hunt of the Spanish Inquisition. Nearly 2,000 "witches" confess. Torture tends to do that.

The 400 Blows is released in 1959. Directed by François Truffaut, the film is considered a classic. It has subtitles, so we never saw it.

The *Forbes* 400 requires that you have a net worth of at least \$1.3 billion to qualify. Of course, that doesn't mean you're worth *shit!*

400 is the benchmark for baseball's best hitters. Ted Williams last did it in 1949, which made him immortal. His family made him immortal, too: They cut off his head and froze it so they can bring him back to life later.

The record for the 400-meter dash—43.18 seconds, set by Michael Johnson in 1999—has stood for nearly 10 years. Speed thrills!

400 calories is what the average slice of apple or cherry pie will cost you. But whoever eats an average slice of pie?

400 scientists disputed the existence of global warming in a Senate report released in January. Unfortunately, among the 400, 84 took money from or were otherwise connected to the fossil-fuel industries, 44 were TV weathermen, 20 were economists, and 70 had no apparent expertise in climate science.

The Cessna 400 is the world's fastest fixed-gear aircraft. Smugglers, take note!

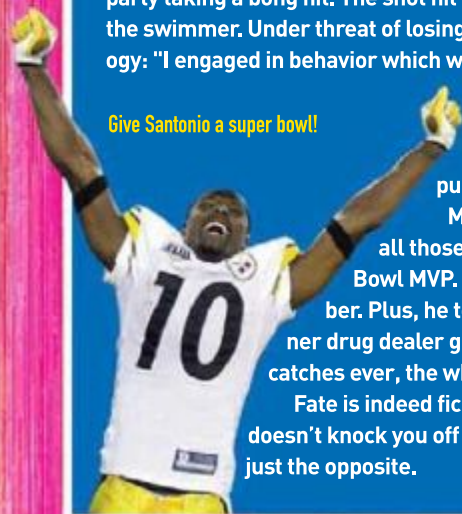
HIGH HEROES OF SPORT

Top jocks prove that pot and athletic performance are natural partners.

Years ago, the TV comedy show *Laugh In* featured a weekly segment called "The Fickle Finger of Fate." Early this year, everybody got to see exactly how it operates.

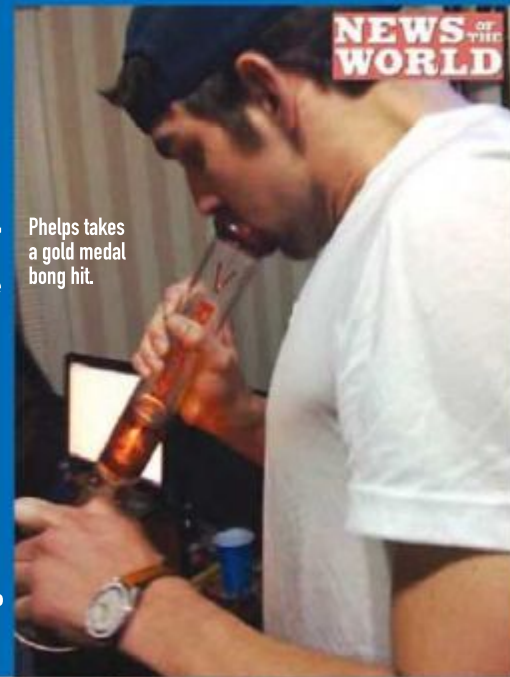
In November, Olympic phenomenon Michael Phelps was photographed at a South Carolina college party taking a bong hit. The shot hit the media in January and everybody went bonkers condemning the swimmer. Under threat of losing lucrative endorsement deals, Phelps delivered a lame-ass apology: "I engaged in behavior which was regrettable and demonstrated bad judgement. I'm 23 years old, and despite the successes I've had in the pool, I acted in a youthful and and inappropriate way, not in a manner people have come to expect from me. For this I am sorry. I promise my fans and the public it will not happen again."

Give Santonio a super bowl!



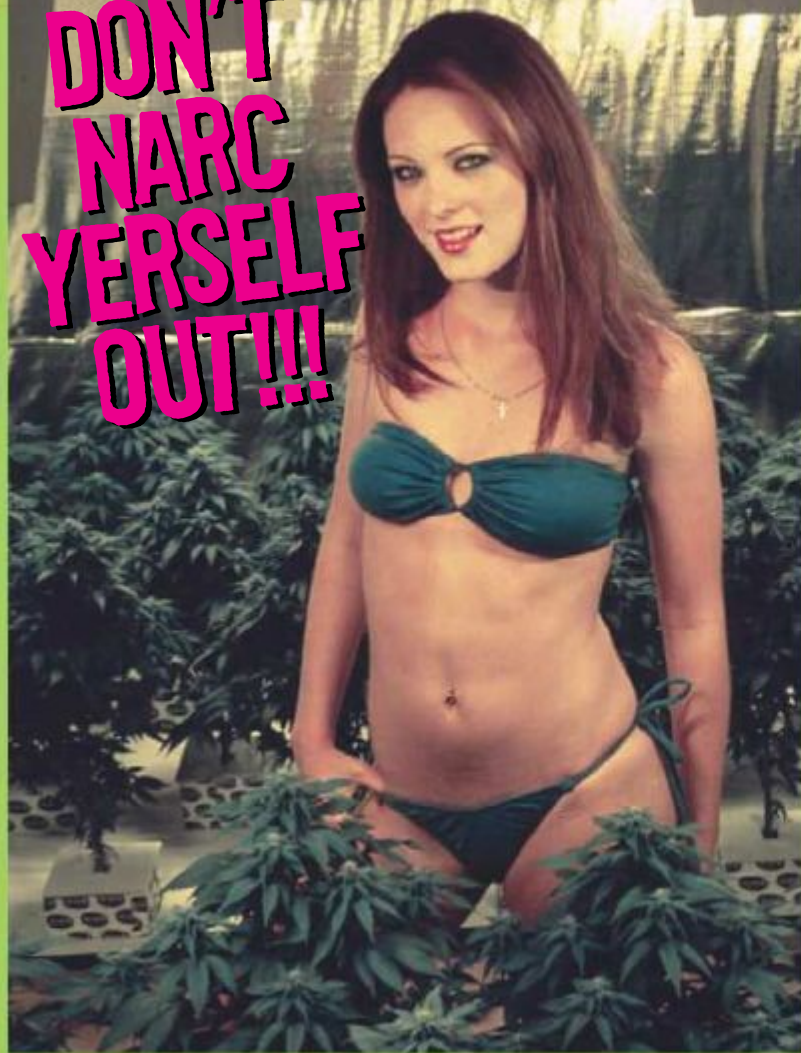
Maybe Phelps should have revealed his love for pot prior to winning all those gold medals. It worked for Santonio Holmes, this year's Super Bowl MVP. The Pittsburgh Steeler wide receiver was busted for pot last October. Plus, he told the media prior to the big game that he had been a street corner drug dealer growing up. After Holmes made one of the greatest Super Bowl catches ever, the whole issue of pot and drugs just seemed to fade away.

Fate is indeed fickle, but we're thankful once again for additional evidence that pot doesn't knock you off your game. Considering the feats of Phelps and Holmes, it may do just the opposite.



Phelps takes a gold medal bong hit.

**DON'T
NARC
YOURSELF
OUT!!!**



TOP 10 GIVEAWAYS THAT YOU GOT A GROWROOM

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
It's the dead of winter and you have the AC on full blast, 24/7.	Be the kooky neighbor who wears Hawaiian shirts and shorts all year long. Or rig an intake system to bring in filtered cold air from the outside.
You just had three pallets of potting soil delivered to your one-bedroom apartment.	Sneak your supplies in gradually using inconspicuous containers. Or grow hydroponically. Fool your neighbors by giving them free tomatoes.
Your tiny apartment generates 50 pounds of used potting soil every 90 days—even in winter!	Remember <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i> ? Carry out one pocketful of dirt at a time.
Your roof is the only one without snow after a blizzard.	Grow in the basement or on a lower floor. Or try moving away from Minnesota.
You always have better weed than everybody else, and you always "got it from a friend."	Smoke with trusted friends only! Otherwise, everyone in town will want to buy pot from your mysterious friend.
Your totally pimped-out Cadillac Escalade is parked in front of your double-wide trailer.	Buy a shittier car, you moron! Or spring for a house as nice as your wheels.
All your windows are covered with blackout fabric.	Buy a white cane so the neighbors will sympathize with the poor blind guy who only wants his privacy.
You pay your \$700 electric bill in cash.	Try gas generators, solar panels or wind turbines. Incidentally, have you heard about money orders?
Your clothes, hair, skin and breath smell like dead skunks.	Wear a separate wardrobe for gardening. Try taking a shower occasionally.
You're constantly transporting CO ₂ canisters to and from the house.	Try to be discreet, okay? Those canisters look like terrorist weapons. You don't need patriotic neighbors calling Homeland Security on you.

Cops act like trolls.



**MASS-HOLE
COPS ONLINE**

The recent decriminalization bill that passed in Massachusetts last November (by a whopping 65 percent) has angered law enforcement officials and legislators all over the commonwealth.

The website masscops.com offers Massachusetts' "finest" a forum to discuss issues related to their jobs. Following passage of the law, the site erupted with

page after page filled with vulgar hate speech, angry denunciations of the voters, and veiled threats to activists and supporters of the reforms. Some choice quotes:

"I can only hope that if someone gets killed because of this law it will be the lawmakers that proposed this legislative question."

"Blaze while you're watching the show, attempt to run over an officer afterwards and hopefully he'll dump his clip into your face."

"A responsible person would not engage in unlawful activity, whether it is civil or criminal. Ergo, there can be no such thing as a responsible marijuana smoker, any more than there could be a responsible rapist, burglar or speeder."

"Add water to the weed, thereby making it weigh over 1oz."

Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi even joined in, ridiculing the efforts of local activists like MassCann and the band Prospect Hill, saying that he would "bring the potato chips and Twinkies" to a meeting discussing higher fines and recriminalization of cannabis.

We have no doubt that many cops and legislators support decrim. Yet these anonymous postings indicate that some cops have no regard for state law and clearly take pleasure in busting marijuana smokers. Protect and serve?

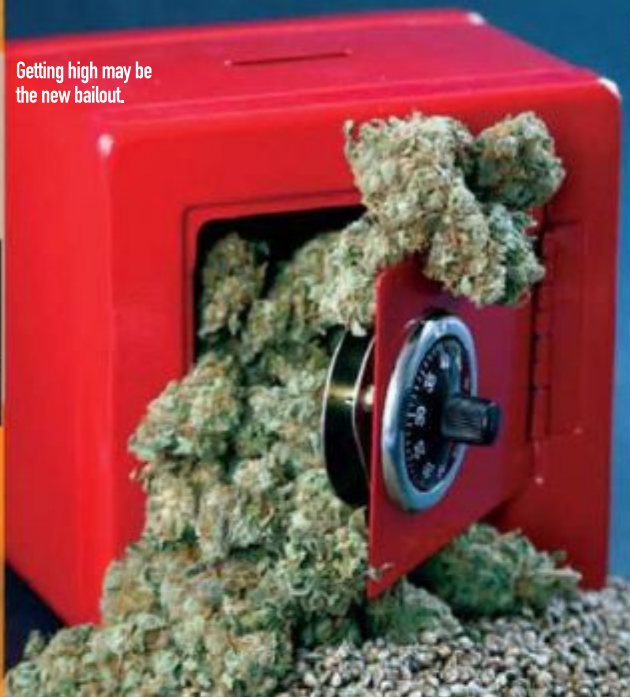


Vaporella in front of the Smithsonian Museum at Obama's inauguration.

CAN YOU SPARE A LITTLE CHANGE?

Our own Vaporella was on the scene for Barack Obama's inauguration in January. Close to two million people from across the nation attended the event, despite the threats of subzero temperatures, extreme overcrowding, a lack of Port-o-Potties, George W. Bush in attendance, and the specter of Pastor Rick Warren giving the invocation. Early-morning crowds on the National Mall passed the time by helping parents find their lost children, staring at their serviceless cell phones, and waiting in hours-long lines at the refreshment stand. The mammoth crowd also engaged in games like "How long can I hold my pee?", "Who will have the most frostbite?" and "How much trash can I throw on the ground?" American-flag vendors were on hand helping to jump-start the economy. Happily, there were no arrests, fatalities or sightings of Sarah Palin to report.

Getting high may be the new bailout.



DRUGS SAVE BANKS!

In January, the head of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, said illegal drugs are keeping banks afloat. In an interview published in the Austrian weekly *Profil*, Vienna-based UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa stated: "Interbank loans were funded by money that originated from drug trade and other illegal activities" and "that some banks were rescued in that way."

Costa also said drug money was often the only available capital when the financial meltdown started. "In many instances, drug money is currently the only liquid investment capital. In the second half of 2008, liquidity was the banking system's main problem." He didn't reveal countries or banks which received drug money or how much was involved.

It will be interesting how Costa reconciles the benefits of the drug trade with his recent statement: "Governments and societies must keep their nerve and avoid being swayed by misguided notions of tolerance." By the way, Costa believes pot impairs cognitive capacity, memory and emotional development, and causes schizophrenia.

this month in **SHOWBUZZ**



Amy skips court.

JUDGING AMY

Amy Winehouse decided to drop her appeal of a drug-possession charge in Norway. Following the arrest of Amy and her husband in October 2007, the British soul singer claimed the police had

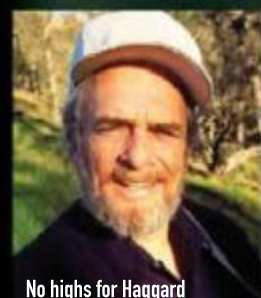
made errors in the case. She was planning to appeal her fine of \$428 and was due to appear in court in Bergen, Norway, in January. Amy chose a Caribbean vacation instead.

A spokesperson explained: "She has been enjoying herself on her break and meeting lots of new people. There are many like-minded people there having extended breaks. Amy is a friendly person and very sociable and behaving exactly as I would expect her to do."

Doesn't sound promising ...

MERLE & MJ

Country-music legend Merle Haggard recently came out the other end of a bout with lung cancer, but the 71-year-old singer/songwriter still plans to tour and record. However, Merle says he's given up marijuana and adds that his new shows will be the first in his life where he wasn't smoking either tobacco or pot, or both.



No highs for Haggard

"It's gonna be interesting as to what kind of a show comes out of this body that's used to performing the other way," he says. Haggard began smoking pot as a substitute for Valium. Over the years, he's quit a few times but says, "Nothing was funny."

(Incidentally, there is no documented evidence of marijuana smoking causing lung cancer.)



Begging for buds

MOOCH ROCK

Nazareth's lead singer, Dan McCafferty, may be too old to rock-'n'-roll, but he's not too young to get high. On the last night of the Scottish rockers' latest (and hopefully last) tour in Allentown, PA,

a roadie taped a sign to his chest that read: "THROW WEED ON STAGE PLEASE!" Sure enough, a fan threw a joint up to the band.

Seriously, guys—begging for weed? If you can't afford a dimebag, maybe it's time to pack it in. Besides, one little joint is hardly enough to get the whole band high.

Oh, well—maybe Nazareth could have scored if they'd ended their tour in Bethlehem. Lots of people go there bearing gifts.

THC EXPO ROLLS IN CALI

On June 13-14, the THC Expo will host the entire hemp and cannabis industry under one roof at the world-renowned Los Angeles Convention Center. It promises to be a one-of-a-kind consumer show, with over 300 cannabis-related businesses exhibiting their products and services.

Today, cannabis is California's top cash crop, and America is missing out on the billions of tax dollars that could be generated by legalization. The THC Expo will serve as a showcase for the economic possibilities that the hemp plant offers. Top speakers will be on hand, and live music will entertain crowds expected to number in the thousands. Medical-marijuana activist and former political prisoner Todd McCormick hosts the event. The THC Expo should reveal to the world the economic necessity of legalizing cannabis.

Visit thcexpo.com for exhibitor registration and attendance information.



Todd McCormick

ART OF THE DUPE

Alan Abel is the infamous prankster who once mounted a legendary campaign to clothe naked animals. With Abel's hoaxes, no one suffers, financially or physically, though some may experience a bit of wounded pride—especially those journalists who forget to check their facts. In the course of his 40-year "hoaxing career," Abel has staged the fake wedding of the late dictator Idi Amin at the Plaza Hotel and pulled off a mass "faint-in" on the Phil Donahue show. He has successfully fooled people into believing in a school for beggars and that he was the



Abel fooled the world by saying big toes were growing.

reclusive millionaire Howard Hughes. He once famously duped 100 reporters into attending a faux press conference to meet the mysterious "Deep Throat," the man who gave Woodward and Bernstein their inside info on the Watergate scandal. And he's still at it, this time writing Bernard Madoff's own confession days before the disgraced businessman was forced to testify as to where that \$50 billion went. Abel's intent: "To amuse and educate—but mostly the former, because people tend to stop learning after high school or college." He says the digital age has made it harder to pull off a good prank; also, he believes, attention spans are getting shorter. But everyone should have more than enough attention-span-width to dig the hell out of *Abel Raises Cain*, the award-winning documentary by his daughter, which documents the life of this amiably diabolical prankster.

Available on DVD at abelraisescain.com.

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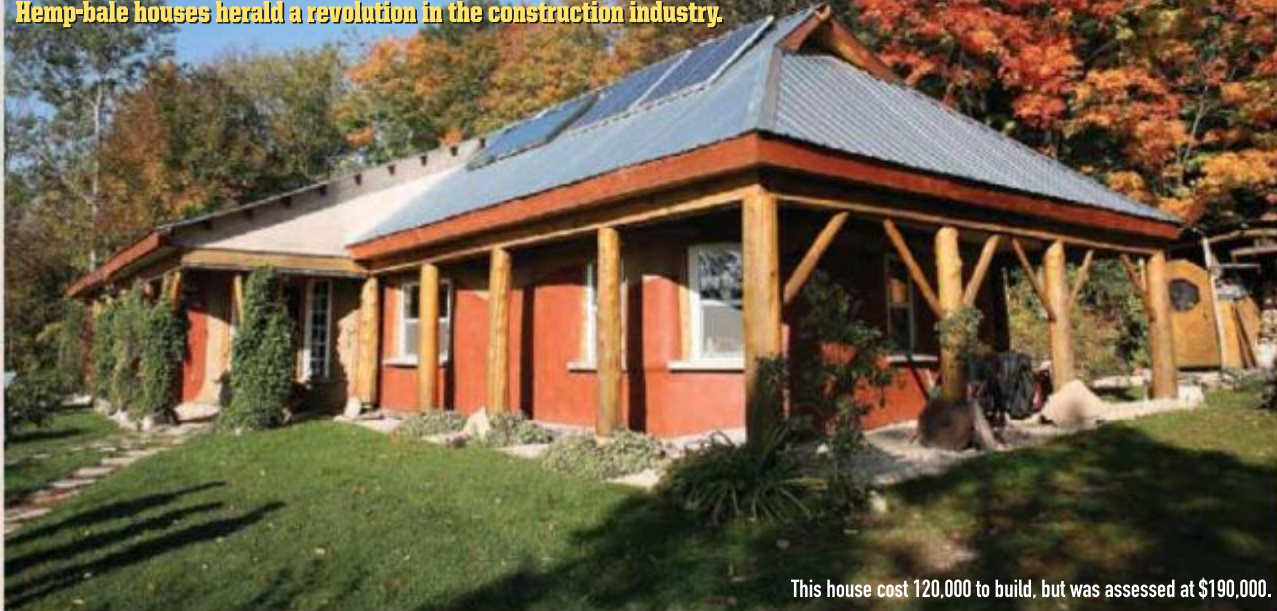
Madoc, Ontario has commissioned hemp-bale public buildings.



New hemp-bale structures are adjunct buildings to the new arts center (background).

HEMP, SWEET HOME

Hemp-bale houses herald a revolution in the construction industry.



This house cost 120,000 to build, but was assessed at \$190,000.

The use of bio-fibers allows builders to support local economies, increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption.



Hemp-bale builder Chris Magwood.

The town of Madoc in Ontario, Canada, wanted to build an outdoor bandstand for its summer concerts in the park. Fleming College was approached, since it features a Sustainable Building Design and Construction program in its curriculum. But Chris Magwood, the lead instructor for the program, informed the town that his students actually build entire buildings, complete with heating and plumbing. He suggested an indoor/outdoor arts center instead: Wouldn't the town prefer 12 months of performance space to just three?

Not a bad idea. But then Chris revealed to the mayor that the new arts center would be constructed using straw-bale building techniques, although in this case the builders would use predominantly hemp materials. "That will happen over my dead body," the mayor declared.

Well, the arts center got built. It boasts an acoustically balanced band space ensconced on a wide veranda and a 90-seat theater on the inside. However, Chris was nice enough not to hold the mayor to his word. No reason to: These hemp-bale structures are very persuasive on their own, especially when their value is understood.

There are about 200 straw-bale structures throughout Canada right now, and maybe 40 made of hemp. The amount of energy required to harvest, process and transport a straw or hemp bale is infinitely less than materials like concrete, aluminum or even plywood, while the use of bio-fibers allows builders to support local economies, increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption.

Chris has designed and/or built over 40 straw-bale structures in Ontario, many of which include "green" building systems such as off-grid solar and micro-hydro power. He is also the author of three books on straw-bale building techniques—the most recent is *More Straw Bale Building* (Mother Earth News Wiser Living Series)—but he'll be the first to tell you that hemp is every

bit as efficient as straw; it's just a matter of using what's locally available.

"The bales used in the arts center come from a nearby farmer who grows hemp for seed—stalks are just leftovers for grain farmers," Chris says. "The foundations of the three wings are made from Hemcrete" (a bio-composite building material based on hemp).

"It's a load-bearing building," he continues. "Basically, the bales are the walled structure and insulation in one material. The inside and outside face of the bale is dipped in a clay slip. The clay becomes impregnated in the bale, which means when we put clay plaster on them, there's a good bond—they're already sticky with the clay. The plaster is just dirt, water and chopped hemp; there's not a lot of lumber in the building."

Chris also builds hemp houses of distinction, gorgeous and as green as they come, designed to produce only as much energy as is needed over the year. These houses also offer amazing insulation value. The walls are a solid blanket, with no wooden studs, breaks or thermal ridges. The roof is galvanized steel, which not only has a high recycled content but can be recycled as well if it's replaced. The steel is left unpainted to reflect sunlight in the summer so the roof doesn't heat up and make the house warm. Additionally, the homes feature cleverly designed eaves that reduce sunlight in the summer and maximize it in the winter. The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Authority has reported that these structures can reduce energy consumption by half. Best of all, a recently completed hemp house cost \$120,000 to build, but was just assessed at \$190,000.

"They're simple to put up, cheap, nontoxic, and can be built with abundant, minimally processed material," Chris says.

Unfortunately, hemp isn't abundant at the present moment—but mindless political policy is.—Story and photos by Dan Skye

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MARIJUANA

To date, the investigation of marijuana's impact on mental health has yielded more questions than answers. **By Mark Miller**

POT PSYCH 404

Marijuana provides a seemingly endless variety of physical benefits, from inducing the munchies to intensifying sex, not to mention its myriad medical uses. But for the most part, pot is smoked for the positive psychological effects that the vast majority of its users experience. Even the corporate-controlled media's reportage on cannabis generally acknowledges the euphoria that most tokers experience. The emblematic optimism and occasional ecstasy that pot produces have remained the central motivation for its repeated use by millions of people for thousands of years.

This euphoric high is produced by tetrahydrocannabinol (good ol' THC), the primary psychoactive component of cannabis. THC belongs to a class of chemicals known as *cannabinoids*, terpenophenolic compounds found in both pot (phytocannabinoids) and people (endogenous cannabinoids). In its effects on humans, THC essentially mimics anandamide, a naturally occurring cannabinoid in the brain. The word anandamide derives from the Sanskrit word for "bliss," and bliss is certainly what many pot users experience. Cannabinoid receptors in the brain, such as CB1, are activated both by the cannabinoids consumed via cannabis and those produced naturally by the body, in an altogether holistic symbiosis.

Dr. Bob Melamede, associate professor of biology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, elaborates: "There are areas of the brain associated with pleasure involving dopamine release, and cannabinoid receptors form hybrid receptors with these dopamine receptors. So the system is intertwined in very novel ways."

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany, agrees: "As far as we can tell, THC effecting a pleasant mood is all part of a bigger system: the link between certain chemicals that occur naturally in the body and the cannabinoid receptors—those important for good feelings in general."

PSYCHOSIS & SCHIZOPHRENIA

But what about the widespread charges that pot, in fact, "doubles the risk" for mental health problems? For example, the respected medical journal *The Lancet* published a much-cited British study in 2007 claiming that "even small doses" of THC produced "temporary psychotic symptoms in people, including hallucinations and paranoid delusions."

Dr. Earleywine lambastes these findings: "When you look at that study closely, you see it reviews seven other studies—and of those, only one actually looks at full-blown schizophrenia with meaningful impairment. The other studies merely looked at psychotic *symptoms* that could be totally subjective."

Also, as Dr. Earleywine and others have pointed out, according to figures compiled by the federal government, nearly 50 percent of all adult Americans have tried pot, yet only 1 percent of the population is ever diagnosed as schizophrenic. Wouldn't that figure be considerably higher if an actual causative link existed between pot use and schizophrenia?

Marijuana may have efficacy in treating psychological disorders.



PHOTO: DAN SKYE. MODELS: LUPUS, DR. HARVEY FREUD



ON THE COUCH

DEPRESSION

The myth that long-term pot use causes depression has also been propagated for decades, but according to Dr. Earleywine, longitudinal data (i.e., from studies observing subjects over a number of years) fail to demonstrate that pot smoking leads to full-blown depressive disorders.

Dr. Melamed concurs, noting that current research has been focused instead on the *anti*-depressive qualities that pot possesses: indirectly stimulating the endocannabinoid system by inhibiting endocannabinoid breakdown, thus increasing the level of naturally occurring cannabinoids in the body—precisely the process that each of us replicates when we consume pot. To be sure, Dr. Melamed adds, some depressed people who use pot may find that it exacerbates their symptoms, but “it’s not one size fits all.” And a 2007 article in the *Journal of Neuroscience* reported that studies have shown that cannabis modulates mood by the agonistic (altering) activity of cannabinoids on the CB1 receptors in the brain.

Cannabis has fueled the creative process throughout the ages, from ancient Hindu artwork to Dr. Dre’s album.

While nothing conclusive can be stated at this point, Dr. Melamed notes that pot seems to work quite well for some patients suffering from bipolar disorders. Emotional pendulum swings between elation and depression are common in all people, but bipolar patients end up stuck in one extreme or the other. For those who are overly “down” or depressed, a light *sativa* can theoretically “open them up,” while a heavy *indica* might “bring down” a manic individual.

PARANOIA

Another common charge is that cannabis causes paranoia in its users. But is this true—or does it heighten awareness in general?

Perhaps there’s only a thin line between the two: One stoner’s delusional suspicion is another’s insightful reflection. Dr. Earleywine acknowledges that setting is an important influence on one’s experience—for example, smoking at a crowded concert as opposed to a comfortable room. The notion that pot causes paranoia also fails to address the fact that many people are naturally anxious and fail to experience euphoria upon smoking. Their anxiety can become crystallized independently of setting, even in the most tranquil of locales.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIONS

Obsessive-compulsive disorder is characterized by behavioral patterns of motion and activity that become dominant to the point where one is constantly driven to carry out this particular mechanical course of action. At *rx-marijuana.com*, the informative website created by Dr. Lester Grinspoon, an associate professor emeritus of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, many postings attest to pot’s ability to combat OCD. (One patient found that it successfully augmented the serotonin inhibitors that had been prescribed. This same patient related that a separate, prominent OCD web board banned *all* discussion of pot because the board’s moderator had peremptorily decided that “pot harms OCD patients.”) Anecdotal evidence suggests that pot may allow some OCD sufferers to better “control their thoughts.” Dr. Grinspoon states that while he hasn’t heard of any persons with severe cases of OCD benefiting from pot, he is certainly open to the possibility.

Dr. Melamed suggests that cannabinoids may be able to reduce OCD by providing the element of “fluidity” necessary to break these psychological patterns. At the same time, he cautions, the fluidity that cannabis brings to one’s mental process is precisely the reason that children and teenagers should *not* use pot, as it interferes with the brain’s natural maturation.

CREATIVITY

Creativity, simply put, is the act of making something new. The very nature of cannabis intoxication, with its aforementioned “fluidity” and associated “spaced-out” or “drifting” perceptions, allows one to think transcendently and develop new ideas, insights or concepts that didn’t previously exist for the user—the defining trait of creativity. Cannabis has fueled the creative process throughout the ages, from ancient Hindu artwork to Dr. Dre’s album *The Chronic*. Not merely anecdotal, this process appears to result from cannabis increasing alpha-2 wave activity in the brain—the electromagnetic oscillations associated with relaxed states of being, which for those so inclined open up channels of creativity. This was inadvertently substantiated by the findings of a 2005 National Institute on Drug Abuse report concerning MDMA users who smoked pot.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

Needless to say, the underlying euphoria that accompanies the marijuana experience for the vast majority of users ensures that it will continue to be used as a psychological aid in numerous capacities—as an antidepressant, a creative catalyst and an agent of relaxation. However, its use on a widespread basis in mental health therapy may still be a long way off. Many doctors categorically dismiss the idea that cannabis is an ideal treatment for any mental disorder; others are much more optimistic about “pot psych.” Dr. Melamed, for example, is integrally involved with Phytiva Pharmaceuticals, a Canadian company that will conduct testing on specific strains to determine the healing properties they may possess.

On the question of whether different strains of cannabis, either *sativa* or *indica*, have specific psychological effects, Dr. Earleywine notes regretfully: “We’ve been talking about doing this type of research for 20 years, but nobody’s been able to clinically link strains to subjective effects—at least not in the US.”

Marijuana’s depiction as a psychologically damaging substance has been de rigeur since the infamous 1936 exploitation movie *Reefer Madness*, which featured people raping and murdering each other under the influence of pot. And the notion that pot leads to “sexual perversion” in minorities was widely promulgated by the Hearst newspapers during that era—in fact, as recently as the 1990s, right-wingers were still claiming that smoking pot could turn a person “gay.”

For the past 70 years, concerted efforts have been made to link cannabis to mental illness, violence, deviancy and even arbitrary changes in sexual orientation. That’s the message of authority in its many guises: government, religion, law enforcement and the media. But have these lurid claims stood up to scientific scrutiny? Despite the many legal obstacles, especially in the US, the answer is clearly “no.” And that’s precisely the reason more research into the psychological effects of cannabis needs to be conducted. ✨





THMQ

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: **\$347** (last month: \$375; YTD: \$374)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$419** (\$455, \$455)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$276** (\$253, \$264)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$107** (\$96, \$90)



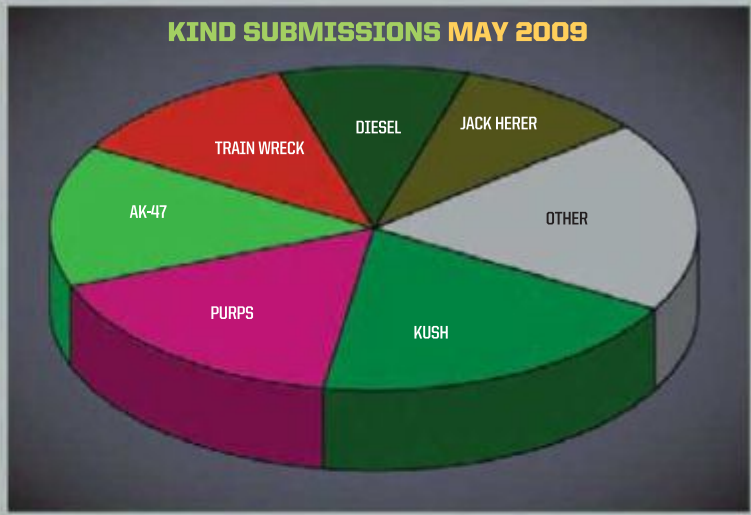
MARKET ANALYSIS

Kush once again finished as the month's most submitted strain, despite its average price dropping nearly \$100 from April. Additionally, two strains made rare appearances in the Top 5: AK-47 and Trainwreck were among the most submitted strains this month for the first time since May and July 2008, respectively. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$371), Purps (\$416), AK-47 (\$459), Trainwreck (\$350) and Diesel (\$356).

Index Watch: The US and Kind indices dropped significantly from April and finished well below their year-to-date averages. In fact, \$419 per ounce marks the Kind Index's lowest price since July 2008. Meanwhile, the Mids and Schwag indices both rose from April to finish above their respective year-to-date averages. At \$107 per ounce, the Schwag Index hit a 14-month high in May.

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

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
CALIFORNIA	Cottonwood	Granddaddy Purps	\$360
	Ventura	Sour Diesel	\$360
		Bubba Kush	\$300
		Jack Herer x Trainwreck	\$275
DELAWARE	Wilmington	Northern Lights	\$300
FLORIDA	Bradenton	Strawberry Cough	\$350
	Miami	Trainwreck	\$350
	Levy County	Jack Herer	\$250
GEORGIA	Atlanta	Purple Kush	\$500
		Sour Diesel	\$550
ILLINOIS	Chicago	Purps	\$320
		Silver Haze	\$350
		AK-47	\$425
INDIANA	Indianapolis	Thai Lights	\$400
MARYLAND	Baltimore Severna Park	OG Kush	\$420
		Strawberry Cough	\$350
		Mango Trainwreck	\$400
MASSACHUSETTS	Middleboro Norton	Hydro	\$280
		G-13	\$500
		Jack Herer	\$420
		White Widow	\$420
MICHIGAN	Holland	Sour Skunk	\$330
MISSOURI	St. Louis	Grape Ape	\$390
		Pineapple OG	\$425
		Strawberry Cough	\$400
MONTANA	Bozeman Victor	Blueberry	\$360
		OG Cat Piss	\$350
NEBRASKA	Omaha	AK-47	\$450
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Woodsville	Orange Kush	\$320
NEW MEXICO	Albuquerque	G-13 Haze	\$300
		Blue Cheese	\$300
		Tutti Frutti	\$325
NEW YORK	Buffalo	Beasters	\$380
		Kush	\$420
NORTH CAROLINA	Asheville Wilmington	Skunk x Trainwreck	\$400
		NYC Diesel	\$450
OKLAHOMA	Shawnee	Platinum	\$425
OREGON	Portland	Salmon Creek	\$280
PENNSYLVANIA	Doylestown	Jack Herer	\$420
SOUTH CAROLINA	Columbia	AK-47	\$560
		Purps	\$480
SOUTH DAKOTA	Sioux Falls	Sour Diesel	\$420
		Skunk	\$350
VIRGINIA	Charlottesville	Mids	\$300
		Hindu Kush	\$280
WASHINGTON	Auburn	Purps	\$400
	Tacoma	Afghani	\$300
		Schwag	\$70
WISCONSIN	Beloit	MK-Ultra	\$480
	Eagle River		
INTERNATIONAL (prices in British pounds)			
UNITED KINGDOM	London	Kong	£150



Thai Lights - \$400
Indianapolis, INDIANA
"This smoke is *amazing!* Chocolate Thai x Skunk #1 x Northern Lights—sticky and covered with crystals. A fruity, musky smell and a distinct red-wine flavor! Fat, fluffy buds that are worth every dollar!"

Hydro - \$280
Middleboro, MASSACHUSETTS
"Decent Hydro grown by a first-timer. Nothing too special, but it definitely gets the job done. Pretty pleasing price—under \$20 a blunt."

Mango Trainwreck - \$400
Severna Park, MARYLAND
"My favorite. It gives an instant high with a strong scent of mango. The inhale is a bit strong, but the exhale is smooth."

MK-Ultra - \$480
Eagle River, WISCONSIN
"This is the best bud I've ever seen around here. Very hard nuggets that are super-sticky and very dank. Help us overgrow the Northwoods!"

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EAGLES OF WEED METAL

California's Eagles of Death Metal (who are, in fact, not really a metal band at all) give HIGH TIMES a lesson in dope, politics and rock'n'roll. *By Justin Hampton*


Imagine that you're 11 years old and turning on your record player (assuming you had one before the advent of CDs and iTunes). You've just swiped your parents' copy of *Exile on Main St.*, and you're preparing to crank it for the millionth time. You notice these funny green specks in the crease of the LP's gatefold and wonder what else the old man's been using the album for. But that question is immediately blasted out of your head by "Rocks Off," and for the next four minutes all you wanna be is a rock'n'roll star.

Kurt Cobain once revealed a variation of this scenario as the sad pinnacle of his happiness in rock music. Jesse Hughes of the California boogie-rock combo Eagles of Death Metal, on the other hand, has obviously gone through the same preteen rehearsal phase, and seriously sees no room in this party for existential despair. "I love this fucking job, dude. I mean, I'm talking to HIGH TIMES now—a magazine I read when I was a kid. You know how fucking cool this is?" he wonders aloud during a tour stop for the group's third LP, *Heart On*. "[All] I think [the job] requires is a little bit of appreciation and respect for the audience, not taking yourself too seriously, and just knowing that this ain't a Bible study. I'm just here to shake my dick and act like a monkey, you know what I mean?"

Call it luck. After all, Jesse exudes the charm of a man who truly has lived a

charmed life. Moving to Palm Desert, CA, after an early childhood spent in Greenville, SC (which he refers to as "the buckle of the Bible Belt"), Hughes attended high school with Josh Homme, well-known mastermind of Queens of the Stone Age and countless other desert-rock side projects. But while Homme pursued his position in rock history early on with Kyuss, Hughes attended the College of the Desert and dabbled in politics as a volunteer for Sonny Bono's US Senate campaign in 1994. Eventually, a career in rock music found Hughes rather than him seeking it out, first with tracks on Homme's long-running "Desert Sessions" series, and then officially with the Eagles' debut, *Peace Love Death Metal*, in 2004. "I really have a fairytale [entry] into rock'n'roll—I didn't do *shit* to get here," he admits.

That said, Hughes isn't merely riding on Homme's coattails. The Eagles are very much Jesse's band that Homme just happens to drum in, with Jesse's word being the last one in songwriting and production. And three albums in, *Heart On* continues to chronicle his obsession with classic-rock clichés, albeit filtered through a layer of eccentric electronic touches and hipster irony à la Beck. So bring on the coy references to Steely Dan ("Now I'm a Fool," described by Hughes as a somber mash-up of "Dirty Work" and "Only a Fool Would Say That"), Dave Mason ("Alone Together" reimagined as "How Can a Man With So Many Friends



EODM frontman
Jesse Hughes
(far right) sets
a fine example
for the band.

**'I want my money
and my guns, and I
want to be able to
smoke my weed on
my fucking front
porch and not have
anyone tell me
what to do.'**

Feel So Alone"), and a million other rock stars both legendary and cheesy.

But are those really drum machines on the title track, and did someone actually use the word "edumacation" on the bottom-heavy dirge "Solo Flights"? Well, uh, yeah. "I steal from the best," Hughes proudly declares. "Basically, this album, I butt-fucked the Rolling Stones with Devo as opposed to butt-fucking them with the Bachman-Turner Overdrive. There ain't nothing new under the sun. I can go buy a gallon of milk—it doesn't mean that I invented it, but I can make a new milkshake."

As an honors student in the School of Rock, Hughes knows you've gotta put drugs in there somewhere between the sex and rock'n'roll. Granted, the road to rock has proved rocky at times—Hughes went to the Promises Rehab Center after completing 2006's *Death by Sexy*, and he still has a sponsor. But he also possesses a state-issued medical card for his prescription pot, which he takes due to vision issues. ("In bright lights, my pupils don't fully dilate," he explains.) As far as Jesse's concerned, pot isn't a drug, and he cites the marijuana maintenance programs of the '20s and '30s as examples of pot's efficacy in treating addiction. So pot gets his full endorsement, ongoing drug-dependency issues or not. "On a medical level, it's helped. On an artistic level, it's helped. And I think it increases libido," he cracks. "My penis is exactly two inches larger when I'm high on weed than when I'm not."

Peace, love and death metal notwithstanding, Hughes ain't no hippie, positioning himself as a hard-core libertarian on all personal-liberty issues. "I want my money and my guns, and I want to be able to smoke my weed on my fucking front porch and not have anyone tell me what to do," he insists. To this day, he extols Sonny Bono as a model politician, describing him as "totally for drug-law reform in general." In the recent election cycle, he favored independent right-wing presidential candidate Alan Keyes over Obama, whom he derides as an "actor" and a Marxist. But more out of principle than marketing, Hughes recognizes the need for tolerance in a politically polarized society. "If I say that I'm a Republican at a fucking party in Hollywood, I'm hated regardless of what kind of person I am. Wrong. It fucking separates people, dude."

Good thing, then, that Hughes is a musician rather than a politician, since rock can still build bridges and save fallen souls better than any political campaign. So keep practicing in your bedroom, kids: If weed and rock can save Hughes, they can save you, too. "I think rock'n'roll is about sort of transcending your weaknesses, in a way," Jesse muses. "For me, it has been—it's given me a second life, and it's made me a better father and a better son. Like go fucking figure that shit out, because I can't, dude." ✨

HIGH TIMES TATTOO-CONTEST WINNERS

Man, did people represent for our tat contest! We knew there were a lot of inked stoners out there, but we weren't prepared for the sheer number of entries. Thank you all for expressing your indelible love of the herb! These are just the top entries, as judged by the HIGH TIMES staff. To view all the contest submissions, go to hightimes.com/tattoo.



1. ASHLI, THE GREEN LADY

Is this lady not every stoner dude's dream? Ashli won by a marijuana mile for her daring cannabis-leaf motif.

2. WE GOT YOUR BACK

Adam York, with the help of artist Justin Page, has dedicated half his back to our magazine. With Bob Marley and Jorge Cervantes looking over his shoulders, we're sure Adam always finds what he is looking for.

3. CHEECH & CHONG REUNITED

So real you can almost hear them dissing each other! Thank you, Chris Boudreau, for this lifelike portrait of the stoner kings of comedy.



TOO CLOSE TO CALL Here's a small sample of some of the amazing skin art that just missed the winner's circle. From left to right: Rasta Rob, David Verstoppen, Dustin Jorge, Amber Johnston, Pinky and Pete.

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The Shot Heard Round the World

Ultimate Sacrifice: John and Robert Kennedy, the Plan for a Coup in Cuba, and the Murder of JFK



Legacy of Secrecy: The Long Shadow of the JFK Assassination—Robert Kennedy, National Security, the Mafia, and the Assassination of Martin Luther King
By Lamar Waldron and Thom Hartmann

(Counterpoint)



Forty-five years after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, facts continue to be uncovered or declassified. In their 2005 book *Ultimate Sacrifice* (now out in a revised paperback edition), authors Lamar Waldron and Thom Hartmann point the finger first and foremost at New Orleans godfather Carlos Marcello, then Johnny Rosselli and Jimmy Hoffa, along with disgruntled anti-Castro Cubans, a smattering of CIA types and rabid right-wing racists like Joseph Milteer.

Waldron and Hartmann reveal for the first time the Kennedy brothers' plans for a coup in Cuba, scheduled to launch in December 1963. Fidel and Raul Castro were both to be removed from power and killed, but after JFK's death, the operation was kaput. A cover-up ensued because CIA, military and government figures wanted not only to avoid a confrontation with the Soviets and protect a general still serving in the Cuban government and



Destiny comes to Dallas.

preparing to step into power, but also to hide their numerous anti-Castro activities. The authors also divulge previous assassination threats to Kennedy in Chicago and Tampa prior to his fateful date in Dallas. The similarities between Lee Harvey Oswald and Thomas Arthur Vallee, a former Marine and apparent patsy-in-the-making in Chicago, are unsettling, to say the least.

Expanding upon their thesis, Waldron and Hartmann's new book, *Legacy of Secrecy*, gives us even more declassified information drawn from the voluminous files so far released. They relate how the Secret Service, as late as the 1990s, destroyed its files concerning the Tampa trip and assassination scare. Even more ominously, the authors link the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, as well as the various Watergate scandals, to many of the same shadowy figures behind the hit on JFK.

Despite years of official denial regarding the existence of a conspiracy, government documents from the CIA, FBI and other sources tell a different story, with many in positions of power doing everything they could to hide their true suspicions or even guilty knowledge. At a total of over 1,600 pages, these are two of the most comprehensive works to date on the JFK, RFK and MLK assassinations. According to the authors, there remain "well over a million CIA records" still hidden and unreleased, so more disturbing revelations could be in store. Until then, these books will bring both conspiracy buffs and the uninitiated but curious up to speed. —Preston Peet

PETER TOSH

The Ultimate Peter Tosh Experience

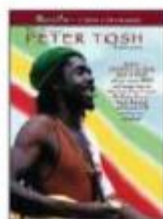
(Shanachie)



It's cool to see Che's face so often these days, but one must remember that a revolutionary is something more than just a dead man on a T-shirt, and also that a musician doesn't become a revolutionary simply by throwing verbal (and invisible) hand grenades at a regime under whose watch he has become a multimillionaire.

Peter Tosh, on the other hand, was about as radical a man as the performing arts ever produced, and *The Ultimate Peter Tosh Experience*, a new boxed set of one CD and two DVDs, pays homage to both the artist and the radical. The hodgepodge "Greatest Hits" CD is a bit of a misfire, neglecting to include the swaggering groove of "Stepping Razor" or Tosh's biggest hit, "Don't Look Back" (sung with Mick Jagger). Even the stoned-out dub of "Legalize It," though welcome, should have come in addition to—not instead of—the original classic.

There's a disc of live footage, including clips from the "One Love" Concert and *No Nukes*, but the real treat of this collection is the reissue of the 1990 documentary *Stepping Razor: Red X*, directed by Nicholas Campbell. Peter's story is told through archival footage, performance videos, interviews and his own privately recorded "Red X" tapes (iconoclastic diatribes that have an *Apocalypse Now*/Colonel Kurtz feel to them). The film is a good portrait of an enigmatic man who, while Bob Marley was busy becoming an international superstar, stayed in Jamaica and fought the good fight to his dying breath. —Chris Simunek



UMPHREY'S MCGEE

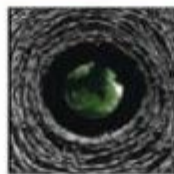
Mantis

(SCI Fidelity)



Riding the momentum of a stupendous run of New Year's shows in the bitterly cold and Windy City, "Chicago's shows" Umphrey's McGee switches gears with *Mantis*, a fairly unique jamband studio album in that no tracks were previously performed live, which enabled the sextet to craft and explore new sounds and songwriting approaches. The result is an LP poppier than the classic Umphrey's quirk-prog, yet much heavier and livelier than their last one. Lead ax-man Jake Cinninger has soaked some '70s rock influences like Deep Purple into his repertoire, a welcome change from his '80s hair-metal overload.

The marathon title track ventures across many peaks and valleys in its 11-plus minutes, anchored by superior singer Brendan Bayliss and his line "I'm never good with lies." "Cemetery Walk" boasts a Talking Heads-style groove and an emotive guitar solo that would do Ritchie Blackmore proud, before leading into "Cemetery Walk II," a techno romp piloted by keyboardist Joel Cummins. The ambitious construct of "Spires" contrasts Beatles-like strings with sinister guitar riffing before bowing to a psychedelic-era Beach Boys vocal closeout that reveals an unexplored side of Umphrey's. As for the rest, "Turn and Run" features drummer Kris Myers channeling Bonzo Bonham; "Prophecy Now" gives the band a chance to get experimental; "Red Tape" never really goes anywhere; and "1348" provides a solid finale. While *Mantis* isn't the dark prog masterpiece that some people expected, credit Umphrey's for stepping beyond the idiosyncrasies of the jamband template. And for the Umphreak who needs it all, plugging this album into your CD drive will allow you to access Web-only "bonus content" throughout '09. —Mark Miller



WILLIE NELSON

Naked Willie

(RCA/Legacy)



Before Willie Nelson became a hippie-American icon, his record company, RCA, tried to break him on the countrypolitan charts by drenching his arrangements in strings, horns and lush choruses. While these mid-to-late-'60s albums can be guilty pleasures, there were arresting and literate songs buried beneath the overproduction, and some of Nashville's finest—including pedal-steel giant Buddy Emmons and guitar god Jerry Reed—struggling to be heard above the clutter.

Now Willie's longtime harmonica, Mickey Raphael, has "unproduced" a batch of these gems, removing everything but the barebones pickers and his employer's naked voice. The result emphasizes the fact that Willie was creating an avant-garde country-folk fusion before most people recognized it, adding a lyrical and musical complexity to the subject matter and chord structure of the honky-tonk idiom that only a handful of other visionaries—folks like Kris Kristofferson, Roger Miller and Mickey Newbury—could match.

We get the man's trademark modified rumba beat on "Following Me Around" and his classic "The Party's Over," as well as Sinatrasque swing on "Bring Me Sunshine," secular gospel on "Laying My Burdens Down" and an anti-war story in "Jimmy's Road"—the latter unheard-of on the conformist, pro-war Nashville scene of 1968. Something else subversive is hinted at in the cerebral "If You Could See What's Going Through My Mind" and "I Let My Mind Wander." Legend has it that Willie quit kicking in doors once he defected from booze to cannabis, except for the doors of artistic innovation. —Michael Simmons



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vaporella's hit of the month

Ceci n'est pas une pipe... wait a minute.... Aside from being one freaky-deaky, *Alien-meets-Beetlejuice*-looking thing, this elaborate glass creation actually *is* a pipe. The small black bowl in front of the lower set of Predator claws (next to the model's right index finger) connects to a stem behind the mask that the wearer can inhale through. Giving new meaning to the term "shitfaced." You may think it looks silly but it's actually endorsed by infamous stoner masked-men like Hashibal Lecter, Batman and Dugout, and the Z-man himself, Zorroreo.



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BY BOBBY BLACK

WEEDLORD

The creators of *Weed Nation Soldiers* transform Bobby into a stoner superhero.

I've always been drawn to comic books. The grand and complex tales of superheroes are like modern mythologies that fire the imagination. So you can imagine my excitement when the creators of the stoner superhero comic *Weed Nation Soldiers* decided to base one of their heroes on me.

According to writer Kareem "KB" Butler and artist Roc Peebles, *Weed Nation* is a global force fighting against corporate and governmental corruption. "The Nation's mission is to expose the lies surrounding the criminalization of marijuana and to thwart the evil pharmaceutical companies that line their pockets by denying us our personal freedom," states KB. "Getting high—whether for medicinal or recreational purposes—should be one of our basic rights as responsible adults. I mean, it's a fucking plant!

"*Weed Nation* began with a bowl of Kush, my favorite bong, Bruce Banner, and an ever-increasing frustration about the hypocrisy of the anti-marijuana laws in the US," he continues. "I thought about real-life weed heroes like Jack Herer, Marc Emery and Woody Harrelson—people who risk their freedom for our rights—and I thought, 'Wouldn't it be cool if we had a group of superheroes representing that fight?'"

The Nation is led by Captain Chronic, who developed a strain of SuperChronic that gave him meta-human healing powers. Also on the team are shamanic assassin Pegotta, ex-Marine Major Munchies, Chocolate Thai, Private Puff, C-Weed, Major Motta and Sergeant Spliff. The heroes don't have secret identities, since their mission is all about stoners not having to hide anymore. What *is* secret, however, is the location of their "head"-quarters, Chronopolis—a state-of-the-art fortress complete with smoking lounge, 24-hour kitchen staff and, of course, a hydro garden.

"Since weed smoking is the catalyst for many of their powers," KB notes, "being high is a necessity for the Soldiers."

"Besides," adds Roc, "being a hero is pretty stressful, and what better way to take the edge off than a toke with some superfriends?"



When asked about his creative process, KB replies: "Weed *is* the process. It's to me what spinach was to Popeye—but instead of fighting Bluto, I'm fighting the munchies."

The team is pitted against arch-nemesis Toby Straight, the CEO of Amrich Pharmaceuticals. "He epitomizes everything that's wrong with our culture," KB explains. "He'll do anything to suppress natural medicine and keep innocent people hooked on Zolof, Prozac or Viagra." Toby's minions include the robotic NARCs (Neurotransmitting Aerial Reconnaissance Commandos), who patrol the skies looking for grow operations, and a weed-hating cyborg called Buzzkill—the villain the Soldiers are battling when Weedlord (the character based on yours truly) makes his first appearance.

So what makes Bobby Black good superhero material? According to KB: "Bobby represents everything that the Weed Nation stands for. He's like the Dr. Strange of weed."

"Bobby already had the look and the knowledge that writes a great backstory," adds Roc. "Here we have a playboy party pimp on the one hand and a superhero on the other. Plus there's this whole layer of magic and spirituality. Put all of those elements together, and you get a character bio that's sweeter than the Blueberry bud I'm smoking right now."

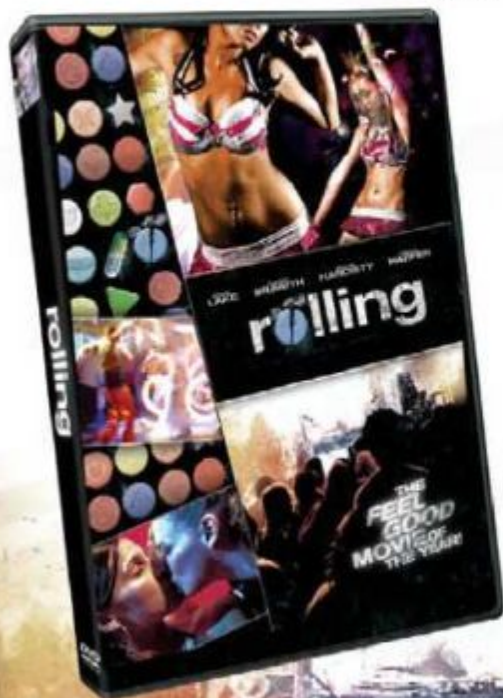
That character bio goes something like this: *Magazine editor Bobby Black enjoyed a life of parties, women and headbanging. Inexplicably unsatisfied, he yearned for a deeper understanding of the universe. He turned to shamanism, immersing himself in the study of magick and mind-altering substances. Then one night during a hash-induced trance, the goddess Cannabia appeared to him—infusing his body with "Chronetic" energy and bestowing upon him supernatural powers and a new name: Weedlord, protector of the herbs of the earth.*

As a comic fan and a stoner, I'm honored to be joining the Weed Nation Soldiers in their fictional fight against intolerance and injustice. In the immortal words of Captain Chronic: *One Nation, One Mission, One Plant.* 🌿

See Weedlord's full bio and character sketches at hightimes.com/weedlord, and check out his spectacular debut at weednationsoldiers.com.

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PSYCHEDELIC EVOLUTION

How Magic Are Your Mushrooms? **By Paul Krassner**

There I stood, a few years ago in San Francisco, with my feet spread apart and my arms outstretched against the side of a car. As I was being frisked by a police officer, I realized that he was facing the back of my *Mad* magazine jacket, the face of Alfred E. Neuman smiling at him and saying, "What, me worry?" And, indeed, this cop was worried. He asked if I had anything sharp in my pockets.

"Because," he explained, "I'm gonna get very mad if I get stuck," obviously referring to a hypodermic needle.

"No," I said, "there's only a pen in this pocket"—gesturing toward the left with my head—"and keys in that one."

When he saw the contents of the baggie that I also had in my pocket, he asked a rhetorical question—"So you like mushrooms, huh?"—with such hostility that it kept reverberating inside my head. I hadn't done anything that would harm somebody else. This was simply an authority figure's need to control. But control what? My pleasure? Or was it deeper than that?

Recently, the *Journal of Psychopharmacology* published the results of a daylong experiment involving psilocybin, also known as "magic mushrooms." Although this psychedelic has been used for centuries in religious ceremonies, it's still illegal. The study, which took place at a Johns Hopkins University laboratory, was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and involved 36 male and female volunteers.

Fourteen months later, 64 percent of the volunteers reported that they still felt at least a moderate increase in well-being or life satisfaction, in terms of creativity, self-confidence, flexibility and optimism, after using mushrooms; 61 percent reported at least a moderate change of behavior in positive ways; 58 percent rated the session as one of the five most personally meaningful experiences of their lives; and 67 percent said that the drug had produced one of the five most spiritually significant experiences they'd ever had. Many spoke of being more sensitive, tolerant, loving and compassionate.

One participant reported: "I feel more centered in who I am and what I'm doing. I don't seem to have those self-doubts like I used to have." She referred to a sense of "taking off ... being lifted up." Then came "brilliant colors and beautiful patterns, just stunningly gorgeous—more intense than normal reality," she added. "I feel much more grounded and that we are all connected. There was this sense

Psilocybin soldiers ready for duty.



of relief and joy and ecstasy when my heart was opened."

According to head researcher Roland Griffiths: "This is a truly remarkable finding. Rarely in psychological research do we see such persistently positive reports from a single event in a laboratory. This gives credence to the claims that the mystical-type experiences some people have during hallucinogen sessions may help patients suffering from cancer-related anxiety or depression, and may serve as a potential treatment for drug dependence."

Rick Doblin, the founder of MAPS (the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies), has been able to break through the "40-year-long bad trip" that he and other researchers have faced in dealing with the negative fallout from the introduction of LSD and other psychedelic compounds in the mid-1960s. He describes this four-decade intellectual Dark Age as having been characterized by "enormous fear and misinformation and a vested interest in exaggerated stories about drugs to keep prohibition alive."

As Charles Shaw points out on *Alternet*: "What was lost in all the derision and urban myths about LSD and other psychedelic compounds like ayahuasca, peyote, psilocybin and iboga—plant medicines thousands of years old—was the fact that they are miraculously powerful medicines, with the ability to effectively treat, and in some cases cure, some of the most debilitating illnesses and disorders plaguing humanity: addiction, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and migraine and cluster headaches. They are also effective palliatives for the sick and dying"

Referring to Doblin's pioneering work, Shaw adds that "Western governments had to ask themselves what was more important to them: their irrational and erroneous drug propaganda, or the possibility that the millions of lives they had devastated by war, violence and iniquitous economic policies might actually be repaired. In this, the seeds of a psychedelic renaissance were planted." ✨

Award-winning satirist Paul Krassner edited the groundbreaking countercultural magazine, *The Realist* (1958-2001), but when *People* magazine called him "father of the underground press," he immediately demanded a paternity test. His latest book is *Who's to Say What's Obscene: Politics, Culture and Comedy in America Today*. He also publishes the *Disneyland Memorial Orgy* poster at paulkrassner.com.

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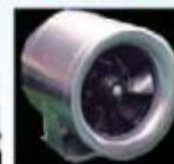
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Are the planets aligning in favor of medical marijuana? Recent events in California—and the season of change that America is experiencing—may herald a new era of freedom nationwide.

california's per



PHOTO: DAN SK



In California, legal medical cannabis is now considered a right. In fact, in Southern California, approximately 300 dispensaries flourish, many in greater Los Angeles.

fact storm

“We’ve won!”

On the night of the Felix Kha ruling, that’s exactly what Jeff Jones was thinking. Jones is the executive director of the California Patient ID Center, whose branches in Los Angeles and Oakland have assisted 100,000 state residents to obtain proper IDs in order to gain access to medical pot. The organization is a not-for-profit cooperative with 50,000 active members that supports both patients and caregivers.

Jones was also at the center of a US Supreme Court case in 2001 (*USA v. OCBC and Jeff Jones*), in which the Oakland Cannabis Buyers’ Cooperative, which he oversaw, was prohibited from distributing marijuana. At the time, many considered the ruling a severe setback for medical cannabis. The high court ruled that federal law trumps the California medical-marijuana law that had been passed as a voter initiative in 1996.

That may well be, but it didn’t stop the proliferation of California’s medical-marijuana industry. Over a quarter-million residents currently hold proper state documentation to access cannabis medicine. Dispensaries have flourished across the state, and pot is far and away the leading agricultural product. Now, in the wake of a more recent US Supreme Court ruling, or lack of, the cannabis landscape could very well change radically—not just in California, but in every state where medical marijuana has been legalized.

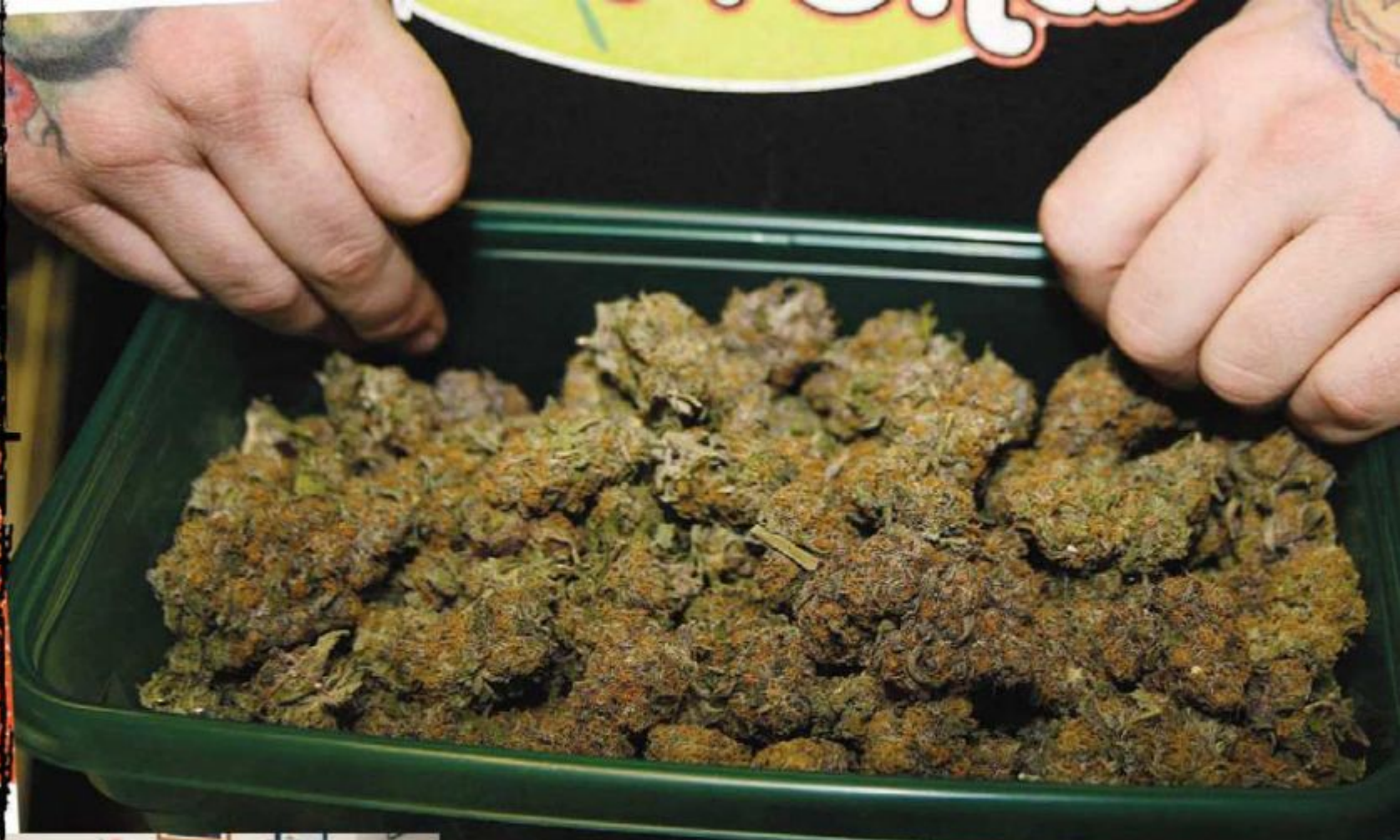
In 2005, Felix Kha was stopped in Garden Grove, CA, for a minor traffic violation. The cops searched his car without his consent and

found eight grams of pot. Kha showed them his state documentation permitting him to use pot medically. The case was dismissed, and Kha asked for his medicine back. The Superior Court of Orange County ordered that the cannabis be returned, stating: “The question of whether a substance is lawfully possessed ... turns on state, not federal law. If, as here, the defendant’s possession of a controlled substance is lawful under California law, then the substance is ‘lawfully possessed’ for purposes of that section.”

But the city of Garden Grove refused to comply and appealed that decision. The Appeals Court upheld the Superior Court, stating: “It is not the job of the local police to enforce the federal drug laws.”

The city of Garden Grove appealed again. Last March, the California Supreme Court refused to hear the case. Finally, in December, the US Supreme Court declined to hear it as well, which means that the rulings of the lower courts stand and Kha can have his cannabis returned. That’s why Jeff Jones is claiming victory.

“When the US Supreme Court says local law is to be abided by by local law enforcement, then we’ve won,” he says. “All we have to do is implement the law locally and skip the Feds, because they don’t have the weight to enforce it. If we implement these laws, in the next five to 10 years they’ll be old news. The Feds will have to try to catch up with us. And once you create a standard, it’s not a privilege—it’s a right. And we’re there. Everyone will demand it, and the Feds won’t be able to stop what the states have allowed.”



Don Duncan says, "Our work is to stay vigilant."

A confluence of events is boosting hope throughout the cannabis world. Jones calls it "the perfect storm." More accurately, it may be a case of perverse serendipity: Good fortune and misfortune have joined hands. The financial meltdown in the US economy is not much different from what occurred during the last days of alcohol prohibition. Back then, the country had entered the Great Depression: Millions were unemployed, tax revenues plummeted, and the future was uncertain. Then, in 1933, Prohibition was repealed. Legalizing booze again increased the prices for grain and other farm commodities, and increased the demand for labor to produce, transport and sell it. It also increased tax revenues for state and federal governments.

Today, millions of people are unemployed, tax revenues are plummeting, and the Feds continue to squander billions of tax dollars in a pointless war on cannabis. But the potential tax revenues from cannabis sales won't be ignored for long, especially in states like California (even though Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has thus far vetoed all pro-cannabis legislation).

"You can't arrest your way out of a recession," says Jones. "Ninety per cent of all marijuana arrests are for simple possession. What a waste of

This crop of Granddaddy Purple, grown in Santa Cruz, is noted for relieving migraines.

resources! We needed flux to change things; we needed something radical," he adds. "The funny thing is, marijuana isn't even in the top 10 polled problems—not even the Drug War. We've demystified it and medicalized it."

The Kha ruling has allowed everyone to see the light at the end of the prohibition tunnel—and for once, the good news doesn't solely affect California.

"Federal law doesn't trump state law when it comes to medical marijuana," says Don Duncan, the executive director of the California chapter of Americans for Safe Access (ASA), the largest member-based organization dedicated to promoting safe access to cannabis medicine.

"The federal law may stand, but it does not invalidate state law," Duncan continues. "States are entitled to pass medical-marijuana laws; they're entitled to implement their programs. Safe access is so widespread in this state that you can't put the cat back in the bag—even absent political or legal victories. Patients have come to expect a certain degree of care in this state, and they get it."

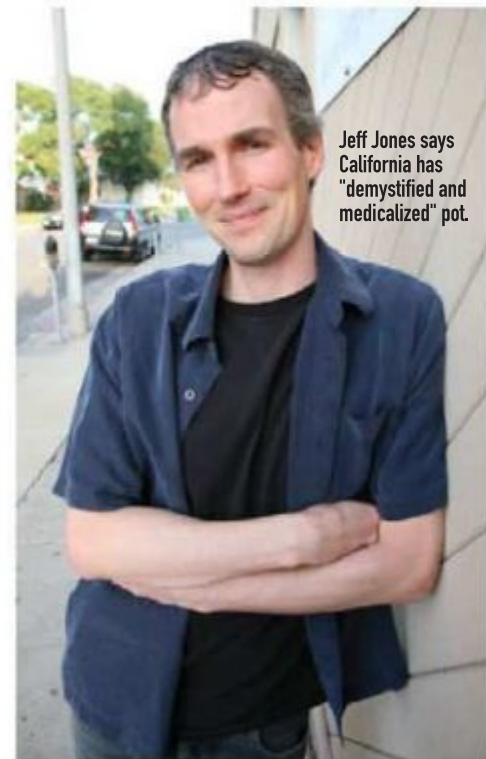
ASA was instrumental in guiding the Kha case through the courts, and the organization wants to guarantee that a workable system for the distribution of cannabis medicine continues to exist, with responsible, well-operated dispensaries following the letter of law and extending the best possible care to patients.

"Our work now is to stay vigilant," Duncan says. The next step, he adds, is clear: "Take it to Washington, DC, and change the federal laws."

Jones is even more forthright. "I hold no hope that Obama is our savior," he says. "It's us—we're our savior. We're not asking for bailouts, we're not looking for money. We just want to be left alone."

Visit safeaccessnow.org.

~~You can't arrest your way out of a recession. What a waste of resources!~~



Jeff Jones says California has "demystified and medicalized" pot.

CALIFORNIA CELEBRATES HARVEST

TWO NOCAL CUPS SHOWCASE PRIZE STRAINS.

Over the past decade on the West Coast, cannabis competitions have followed hot on the heels of harvest. Late last year, the San Francisco Cup had its second gathering, while the Santa Cruz Cup held its third annual contest. These are more than just bud battles: Cups are networking events, opportunities for doctors, patients and growers to come together and trade information on all things cannabis.

Several hundred people attended the San Francisco Cup, and all proceeds went to the San Francisco chapter of Americans for Safe Access. Because city and state medical-cannabis laws restrict the number of plants that a single patient can grow, legally sanctioned collectives of growers were heavily represented at the event in order to ensure sufficient samples for the judges, who were required to present medical cards and a \$200 entry fee in order to be impaneled.

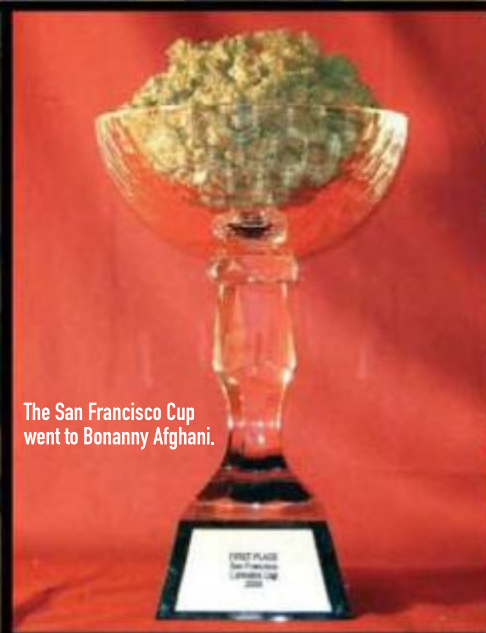
Twenty-nine strains were on the docket, all of them anonymous. (However, with so many strains to evaluate over the course of only a few hours, the judging was largely determined by bouquet.) When the votes were in, the top two spots went to fruity, aromatic indoor strains. San Francisco's Small Garden Select (SGS) Collective took first place for their Bonanny Afghani, which expanded the lungs and tingled the nostrils with a clean taste redolent of mango. The City Cannabis Couriers Collective (CCC) took second place with Kauai, while third place went to Alameda's Green Door Collective for their Platinum Purple strain.

At the Santa Cruz Cup, about 150 self-appointed pot experts showed up at the rented VFW hall downtown to do their duty. There were no restrictions on judges (though most did have valid medical cards)—and although the strains were grown by fully licensed medical growers, it seems likely that some people in attendance who were not members of collectives grew crop quantities far beyond the state's personal-use guidelines.

Thankfully, there were far less than 29 strains to judge. However, only two of the six strains entered were from the

Afwreck gets divvied up into judges' samples at the Santa Cruz Cup.

In Santa Cruz, judges pondered the evidence at the local VFW hall.



The San Francisco Cup went to Bonanny Afghani.



Blueberry took the Santa Cruz cup.

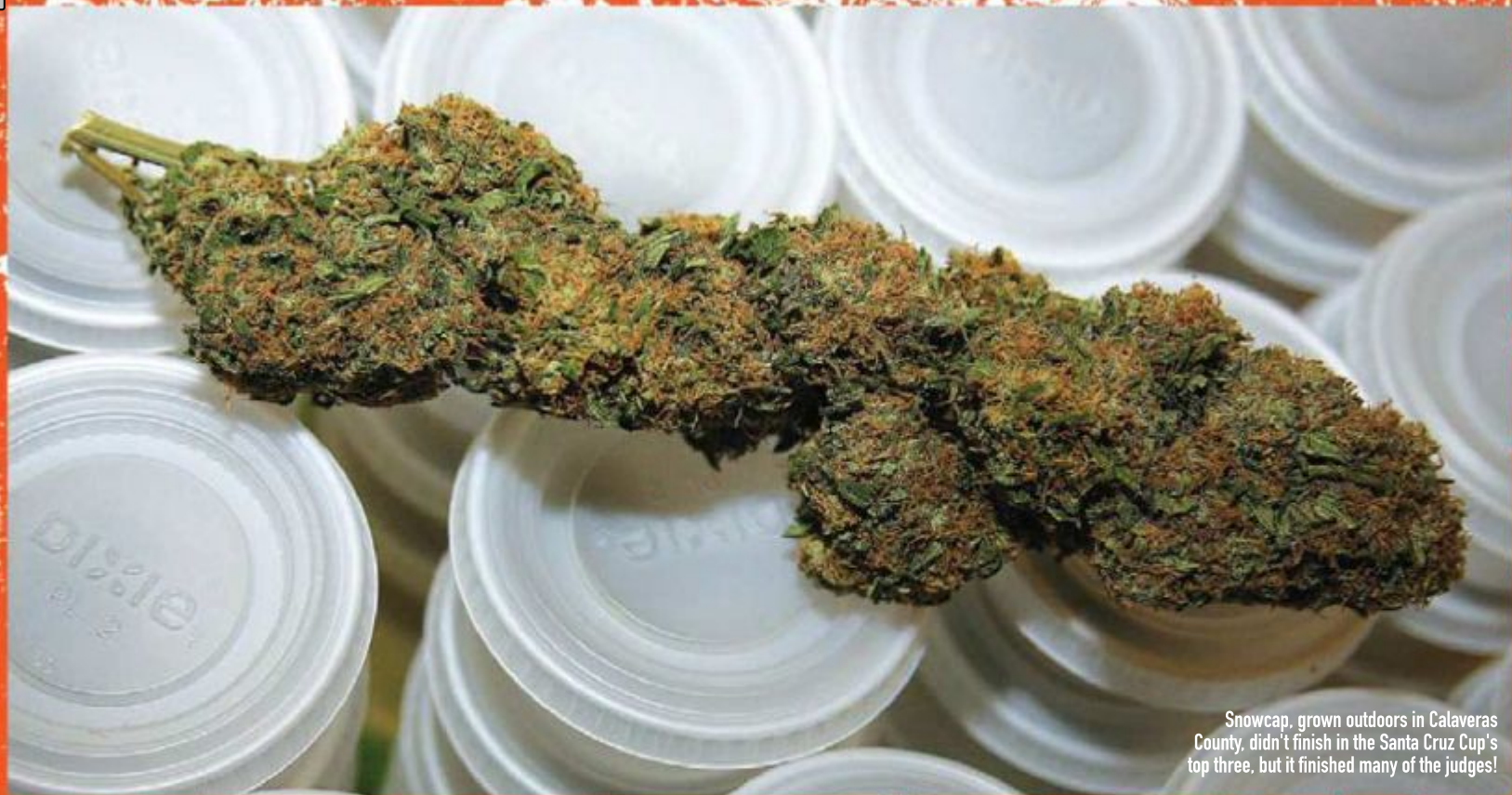
Santa Cruz area; the other four hailed from distant Trinity, Humboldt and Calaveras counties. Still, no one seemed to mind too much—Californians, like everyone else, will smoke great weed no matter where it's from.

Blueberry was the crowd favorite this year, a popular outdoor *indica* grown widely in California's north country. The grower was pleasantly surprised; he's actually partial to Afwreck, a strain he grew and entered as well, which he describes as "maximally sedating." Sadly, the Afwreck finished out of the money.

Second place was taken by the C&Z growers of Santa Cruz for a Granddaddy Purple, which finished only four votes behind the Blueberry. It was packed with crystals and revealed a deep purple hue when broken open. One of the growers called it his favorite strain for its ability to treat the back pain and migraines he suffers.

The White, a Santa Cruz legend with roots going back 20 years, took third place. Grown by Lyberti Pharms, its origins are hazy, but most agree that it's certainly some type of Kush cross.

The growers who attended these events for the purpose of educating themselves found their brethren eager to share details about cultivation, flushing and curing techniques. Some folks arrived with unofficial samples to share, plucked from prize colas. Indeed, friendly farmers like these always lend an extra-special flavor to Cup events. —Dan Skye, Chris & Bobby G Blunt



Snowcap, grown outdoors in Calaveras County, didn't finish in the Santa Cruz Cup's top three, but it finished many of the judges!

THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Dr. Jean Talleyrand, MD, is the president of MediCann, a group of integrative medical clinics dedicated to providing health and wellness services, including evaluations for medical marijuana. An alumnus of the School of Medicine at both Brown and Boston universities, Talleyrand began his practice in California, where he issued his first medical-marijuana recommendations while working for San Francisco's Department of Public Health. He found that medical marijuana perfectly complemented his interest in alternative health care. Talleyrand sat down with us to share his professional views on the issue of medical cannabis.

What is MediCann?

MediCann is a group of 17 health clinics located throughout California, from Eureka to San Diego—the exact locations are on our website, medicannusa.com. Over five years, we have exploded to 17 locations, and the need continues to grow. We are planning on opening another five locations in 2009.

We provide medical-marijuana evaluations—not marijuana. At some locations, we offer alternative services, from nutrition to acupuncture and massage therapy. We also provide alternative-medicine education through brochures. Some patients will begin to use our clinics this year for support groups and seminars, including military veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. We employ 19 doctors, most of whom work part-time for us.

What sort of hurdles did MediCann have to overcome?

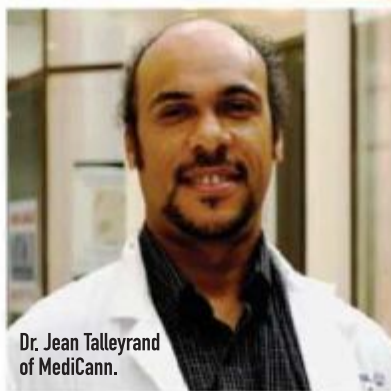
The ability to write recommendations for medical marijuana became law in 1996 in California. When we incorporated, we immediately regis-

tered with the California Medical Board and have followed their requirements as closely as possible. So we've had little trouble with our business. The biggest hurdle, as I see it, is convincing those who are self-medicating that they can do it legally without fear of repercussion. Also, I would like patients to have more advice or education on their illness and how best to use this herb.

What are the most common reasons for which MediCann writes cannabis prescriptions?

Our top five diagnoses are lower back pain, arthritis, insomnia, anxiety and traumatic injuries. Migraine headaches, cancer convalescence and HIV-related disorders are among our top 20 diagnoses.

We do not discuss dosing; we recommend the use for those patients that find benefits. Also, since we're talking about herbal medicine instead of pharmaceutical medicine, administration is different: Herbal medicines are generally milder and typically used with regularity—not as a magic bullet to obliterate symp-



Dr. Jean Talleyrand of MediCann.

toms. They also generally have little to no side effects.

How many recommendations has MediCann written to date?

We have over 115,000 patient medical files. About half of these patients return to us yearly; some have over the entire five years.

Do you have any insights as to the benefits of *indicas* versus *sativas*?

Using marijuana based on its genetic variation is not likely useful. *Cannabis sativa* and *Cannabis indica* are two different types of marijuana plants. Over the years, plants have been crossed or hybridized so much that some people say that there are no true *sativas* or *indicas* available anymore.

Among the dispensaries in California, strains are being promoted for certain illnesses. Actually, there is no scientific basis behind this. Cannabis plants can be easily altered by the growing method and how you feed them.

Do you have a vision for the distribu-

tion of medical cannabis that differs from the current system?

Patients who don't grow their own medicine have no way of knowing if the medicine they're purchasing from the dispensaries is without pesticides or other chemicals. There is no regulation of the commercial growing of medical marijuana; California seems to have avoided addressing this issue—probably because of concerns over the federal control of commerce. Unfortunately, patients suffer. Growers continue to hide for fear of DEA or local law enforcement raids. They put their plants underneath trees and in underground bunkers, having to use anti-mold agents and other chemicals to keep them viable. Marijuana needs to be treated as medicine, with regulation on all levels of the industry.

Is cannabis generally a recession-proof industry?

I can't speak for the California cannabis industry, but I can say that people have used marijuana as medicine—and cannabis for industrial use—for thousands of years. As far back as the 1800s, medical societies and groups have been proponents of marijuana for many illnesses. Parke-Davis used to sell cannabis tincture for medical use in the 1920s and 1930s—and today, we continue to use marijuana as medicine. Whether legal or illegal, it will continue to be used as long as humans are alive and the plant exists. It's too powerful and successful a treatment to be swept under the rug.—C&BG Blunt

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WEEDITOPIA

Learn how to save money and the planet while growing the greatest, greenest ganja on Earth with a return trip to Northern California's Namaste Center for Sustainable Ganja Farming.

By David Bienenstock | Photos by Waterbear

During the height of last year's ganja growing season, HIGH TIMES dispatched one of our New York City-based reporters to Northern California to investigate a group of environmentally conscious medical-marijuana providers. He returned with a story entitled "Weeditopia" (hightimes.com/weeditopia/), which detailed not only the ecologically friendly cultivation methods employed by the residents of the Namaste Center for Sustainable Ganja Farming (a pseudonym), but also the unique lifestyle that flourished on their land.

While our reporter noted the solar-powered water pumps, organic food gardens, compost toilets and rainwater-collection systems, he also took part in communal meals, consensus-based planning meetings and spontaneous late-night drum circles around the campfire. Along the way,

he envisioned a world not too far into the future in which marijuana was not only legalized, but actively adopted by a new generation of growers as a means of providing society with much-needed medicine, while providing themselves with a way to make a living—and form a community—that appealed to their highest ideals.

After numerous requests from readers all over the country, we dispatched that same reporter to Northern California during this year's harvest, to check in with the plants and people at the Namaste Center, and to provide our readers with more detailed instructions for adopting eco-friendly cultivation practices in their own gardens, whether food or ganja, large or small, indoor or out.



Growing your ganja in tune with Mother Earth can be a very rewarding experience.

EMERGING

And so, as the modern world moves quickly into a bold new era and the ancient Mayan calendar rapidly approaches its ultimate jumping-off point—December 21, 2012—let’s stop a moment and consider that some of the oldest wisdom on Earth still has tremendous value, particularly for those of us who have tied our health, wealth and well-being to the flourishing of a plant.

It was not too long ago in the grand scheme of things, after all, that the first seed was saved and later planted, and our ancient ancestors took their initial, shaky steps out of the chaos of prehistory. Prior to that pivotal innovation, humans hunted and gathered, finding their food and medicine wherever nature provided. Now, through trial and error and the happy accidents that preface all great discoveries, these primitive farmers began slowly learning and perfecting countless ways of working with Mother Nature, using their tools and innovations to support her natural cycles.

And thus, for thousands of years, agriculture remained completely organic, overwhelmingly local and largely sustainable—until, in the name

of corporate profits and consumer “convenience,” surplus chemicals left over from World War II were repurposed to create the modern, petroleum-based “agri-business” model. Complex cycles developed over countless generations were quickly torn apart and replaced by an assembly line of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, leading to a food system that’s focused on producing the newest flavor of Doritos while the soil degrades, the family farmer goes broke, and the rivers clog with animal waste once treasured as an invaluable fertilizer.

That’s the bad news. The good news is that now’s the time to truly return to the land. Just as the market for local and organic food has skyrocketed in the last five years, so too has the market for organic ganja. And best of all, by conserving your resources, avoiding costly chemical additives, and tapping into the latest (and oldest) eco-gardening techniques, you can actually grow your all-natural, fully sustainable, wonderfully medicinal ganja for a lot less money than the next guy.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS: "Let the Sunshine in!"

Most marijuana smokers are not only denied the pleasure of growing their own, but even of knowing where their own comes from, who grew it and how.

In fact, aside from pictures in this magazine and on the Internet, the majority of America's 25 million stoners have never even *seen* a real live marijuana plant in the great outdoors. So take it from someone who has: It's a breathtaking and wondrous sight. Mary Jane looks so beautiful out in the middle of some lovely pasture, valley or hillside, soaked in morning sunshine and bright dew, leaves fluttering in a gentle breeze.

In a perfect world, all pot plants would live their lives outdoors, taking their nourishment from the sun and soil, breathing in our desperately unwanted carbon and gifting us oxygen in return. Remember, it's only the misguided laws against weed that ever drove us to hide our love away in the first place, and as soon as those laws are abolished forever, we will come out of our closets (and basements, and attics) once and for all.

For now, however, the reasons for growing marijuana indoors—stealth, convenience, quicker harvests, lack of outdoor space—remain understandable in some circumstances. But as far as the ecological impact goes, not to mention the amount of yield per dollar invested, there's still no comparison with outdoor gardens. Think about it: Going back to nature replaces electric bills and high-intensity lights with free sunshine; replaces carbon filters and fans with fresh air, trips to the hydro store with nutrient-rich natural soil, all the costs of growroom construction with a bucket and a watering can, and so on.

And if you're worried about quality, don't be: This reporter has traveled all over the world in pursuit of the best herb, and he's proud to report that the outdoor organic buds at the Namaste Center can roll with the best of them. And all with no artificial colors or flavors.

Hopefully, by now we've convinced a few indoor growers to make the switch once the time is right. In the meantime, you can grow a little greener indoors by using more efficient 600-watt bulbs, running them at night, keeping them clean and dust-free, and connecting them to properly functioning digital ballasts. You can also lower your energy costs and carbon footprint by switching your electrical current to 220, installing proper insulation in your growroom and home, using fluorescent lights for clones instead of high-intensity ones, and installing light movers in your flowering room (which will allow you to use lower-watt bulbs to get the same amount of light to your plants while burning less energy).

And don't forget: An indoor growroom can also be an organic growroom. It starts with using either organic soil or an eco-friendly soilless medium like coco peat, and it means that from start to finish, everything that touches your plants is 100 percent organic, including fertilizers like bat guano and natural pesticides like neem oil. Perhaps most importantly, indoor growers should seriously consider contributing some of their non-ganja green to the movement to legalize marijuana, so that we can all start growing (and smoking) out in the sunshine as soon as possible!

Organic ganja loves to soak in pure sunshine.



Outdoor growers get big yields for less money.



Perfect purple pot, with no artificial colors or flavors.



After a successful harvest, always make a generous offering to the local machine elves!



WATER PRESSURE

All across the globe, the depletion of clean, fresh water looms as a serious ecological challenge—one that already takes lives in many Third World nations and threatens to turn vast stretches of the earth into desert. This means that water, which fast-growing cannabis desperately needs to thrive, will become increasingly scarce and expensive in all but the wettest climates. It also means that ganja growers have both a moral and a financial interest in conserving water now.

Let's start with the fresh, clean water that falls from the sky. After all, collecting rainwater is not only one of the oldest and most basic of agricultural techniques; it's also one of the best ways for modern marijuana farmers to reduce both water usage and costs. And rainwater's not only free—it's also far better suited for your plants than what comes out of the tap.

The Internet abounds with simple instructions for attaching a rain barrel to your house's gutters, and countless variations on this theme will work in almost any setting with adequate rainfall. So get started as soon as possible, and make sure the next thunderstorm that passes through works for you and your garden.

Drip, drip, drip

If that's the sound of your faucet, you're wasting water—a precious natural resource—and need to fix it immediately. But if it's the sound of your drip-irrigation system, congratulations: You're on the right track, because unless you have a small garden that you can easily tend to during the day, setting up one of these simple, automatic watering systems makes sense for your plants, your pocket-book and the planet.

By watering in drips—small, carefully measured amounts at preset times of the day—these automatic irrigation systems ensure that your plants absorb as much of each watering as possible. Over time, you can adjust the settings until your plants receive an ideal amount of water for optimal growth.

Also, whether you water by hand or set up an irrigation system, you should always water your plants early in the morning or in the cool of the evening, to ensure that their roots get the most water before it's lost to evaporation. If you're using a watering can, water slowly, giving each plant a little at a time and then waiting for the soil to absorb it before adding more. Putting a bit of mulch on top of your soil will also help the plants to retain water and use it more efficiently.

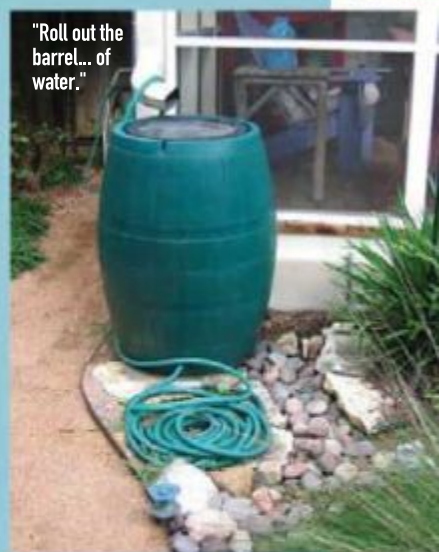


"Duck, duck, duck.... kush."

PERMACULTURE

Short for "permanent agriculture," *permaculture* is a philosophy of designing human habitats with a heavy emphasis on sustainability and self-sufficiency, particularly by learning to mimic the symbiotic systems found in nature. The phrase gained popularity with the work of Bill Molison and David Holmgren in the 1970s, but the concept itself is ancient, dating back to a time when all agricultural production was, by necessity, local and sustainable.

"The problem is the solution," permaculturists are fond of saying, which means making what you have work for you and making do without the rest. There are many applications of this principle. For instance, the photo above shows a good example of pairing the problem (the need to trim fan leaves from a garden of outdoor buds) with the solution (a bunch of hungry, leaf-chomping ducks). Good thing those ducks don't eat buds Now if only they had longer necks!



"Roll out the barrel... of water."

COMPOST TEA TIME

"I've never grown ganja conventionally," the Namaste Center's head ganja grower admits. "I've never had the money to do it."

So instead of buying costly soil amendments, these farmers decided to brew compost tea instead, implementing their own version of a system developed by soil expert Elaine Ingham. The Namaste Center first experimented with compost tea last season with amazing results. For just a fraction of the cost—and a lot less effort—they replaced all of their fertilizers and pesticides with a few applications of the tea, both by pouring it into the soil and by using it as a foliar spray on the leaves.

Compost tea, a brew made from the farm's collected organic-waste matter (like old leaves, pulled weeds and discarded kitchen scraps) plus locally harvested organic amendments like fish hydrolysate, kelp, crab-shell meal, soluble seaweed and earthworm castings, not only feeds the plants; it also builds the soil and fights off pests and diseases. Once again, this is a case of the latest science rediscovering the importance of the oldest wisdom.

Instead of thinking of soil as an empty hole into which you pour money and bottles of unpro-

Compost tea protects your plants against rivals like spider mites, bud mold and powdery mildew.

nounceable stuff from the hydro store, think of it as a living community of tiny organisms and bacteria that have specifically evolved to benefit plant growth in exchange for their own microscopic free ride. Feed these tiny organisms and they will gladly not only feed your crops in return, but also defend them against unwanted rivals like spider mites, bud mold, powdery mildew and caterpillars.

The process starts with a well-maintained compost pile, which not only provides the raw material for compost tea, but also reduces the amount of trash produced on the farm. This, in turn, helps the Namaste Center farmers make fewer trips into town, thus letting them keep a nice, low profile. And even in Weeditopia, a low profile is still a good thing.

Meanwhile, many factors will affect exactly how you go about mixing up your own compost, based on the local climate, the number of plants you're growing, and the amount and type of waste you have to use. A well-maintained pile won't stink much, but it's still best to put it in an out-of-the-way place. Constructing a bin will keep a smaller compost pile neat and contained, but for a larger one you needn't bother.

Do some research first, and plan your composting carefully so that you don't end up with a big pile of rotting garbage. The interior of your compost pile must reach at least 140°F for at least three days straight in order to kill off the harmful bacteria and plant pathogens. Also, you must carefully monitor what goes into the pile—and in what



This compost pile consists primarily of decomposing pot leaves.

A simple setup can brew compost tea teeming with complex organisms.

Real compost tea starts with real compost.

amounts—to make sure there's a proper balance of carbon, nitrogen and other elements. By the time your pile fully composts, the organic material will actually smell sweet, rich and earthy, and it will break up easily in your hand.

Farmers of all kinds already consider compost an invaluable element in their gardens, mixing it directly into their soil before planting and adding more as necessary throughout the season. By simply stuffing this material into a mesh sack and soaking it in water, you can create a rudimentary compost extract that can be more easily applied to plants, and in a form they can more efficiently absorb.

The next step, if you choose to take it, involves "brewing" this extract along with a food source like molasses, thereby extracting far more of the nutrients from the compost and creating a living population of beneficial microbes within the tea. When you apply compost tea to your plants, this "living soil" reaches the roots through watering and reaches the leaves when you spray them directly—and in both cases will quickly go to work feeding and protecting your increasingly beautiful ganja.

Most gardening stores have ready-made compost-tea-brewing systems available to buy off the shelf, or you can find simple instructions on the Internet for constructing your own. Switching your garden to compost tea will definitely take a little time and research up front, but down the road you'll be smoking sweeter, stronger, healthier buds at a fraction of the cost. Think of it as having a *ménage à trois* with Mother Earth and Mary Jane!

GROW YOUR OWN (FOOD)

Come harvest time at the Namaste Center, the small regular farming crew begins to expand with friends, friends of friends and other helping hands until there's about 30 full-time live-in workers during the height of the trimming sessions. That makes for a lot of hungry mouths to feed, especially considering that most of them have been smoking scissor hash since first thing in the morning.

By growing their own food, the farmers at the Namaste Center can provide healthy organic meals for these workers at less than half the cost of a trip to the supermarket, including the lengthy ride into town. Growing your own also eliminates the large carbon footprint left by transporting food from all over the world. And once again, by being self-reliant and thrifty, the Namaste Center maintains a low profile—hitting the food co-op as little as possible rather than shopping for a small army.

Best of all, since the center is already extensively involved in agriculture, it's just a matter of devoting adequate space to vegetables, salad greens and other edible plants, feeding them the same compost tea as the ganja, and harvesting a delicious bounty day after day.

So who's hungry?



Medicinal use

Cannabis has always been used as a medicine. Medical patients around the world noticed that the Paradise Seeds varieties are excellent to help relieve pain and suffering, reduce nausea, induce appetite and treat a range of other ailments for people who require medical marijuana.

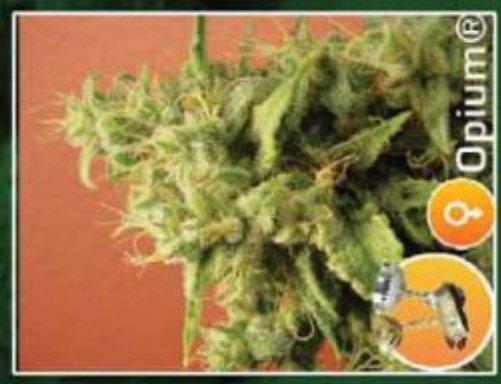


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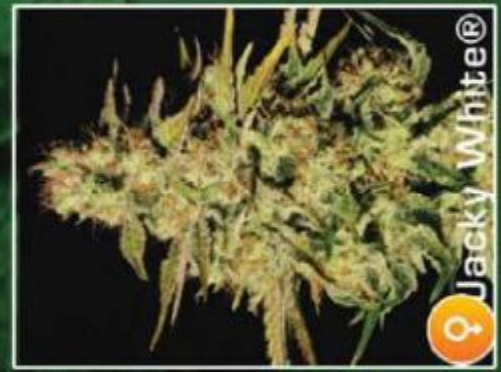
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COMMUNITIES AGAINST POT POLLUTION

Last spring, a group of longtime residents in Northern California's legendary Humboldt County met to discuss the number of indoor grow operations setting up shop in what used to be America's premier breadbasket of outdoor ganja. The great migration from hidden guerrilla plots in remote locations to large, diesel-powered indoor bud factories started when the federal government first began its Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) program in 1983.

Faced with intensive enforcement efforts, including frequent helicopter assaults on their gardens, an increasing number of native pot growers opted for the relative safety of moving indoors, hoping to protect themselves, their plants and their livelihoods. Recently, a steady influx of outsiders—often more interested in pot profits than quality, safety, the locals or the environment—has pushed the issue to the forefront, prompting a community meeting in a community that mostly prefers to keep to the shadows.

Calling itself Communities Addressing Pot Pollution (CAPP), a group of eco-minded longtime Humboldt locals—many of them also longtime outdoor growers—met informally for the first time to discuss the environmental impact of these indoor grow ops. A few weeks later, one of their worst fears came to life, right in their own backyard.

"The spill gave everyone a kick in the butt," an anonymous CAPP spokesperson told our reporter while spreading the group's message at this year's NORML conference in Berkeley, CA. "We realized that we've got to stop being silent because of the paranoia that goes with growing pot."

The spill, which sent up to 1,000 gallons of diesel into Hacker Creek in southern Humboldt County, occurred when one of the giant fuel tanks used to power an illegal indoor grow op overflowed. Improperly installed and set up without a containment unit, the tank sent its toxic payload directly into an environmentally sensitive woodland creek.

An anonymous whistleblower called the authorities, and a \$200,000 clean-up effort quickly began, with local specialists removing the tanks, digging up contaminated soil and using specially absorbent materials to soak up even more. Still, the damage was done, and unfortunately it won't be the last time—at least until we finally legalize marijuana and take the profit incentive out of diesel-powered gardens.

Until then, CAPP hopes the spill at Hacker Creek can serve as the starting point for a sensitive but long-overdue discussion about the responsibilities of ganja growers—a subject with the potential to cut deeply in a part of the country largely dependent on marijuana commerce. For starters, CAPP is calling on all indoor growers to, at the very least, install proper containment units on all diesel tanks to avoid future spills, and to run their generators on far less polluting biodiesel. Also, CAPP is insisting that growers make sure all

JUST SAY NO TO DIESEL DOPE

A few facts to consider before cranking up that generator:

Growing 1.75 pounds of indoor pot with a diesel generator produces over 3,000 pounds of CO₂.

A 20-light indoor grow operation uses approximately 1,500 gallons of diesel per 75 day cycle.

Most "diesel grows" require 75 gallons of the fuel to produce just 1 pound of herb.

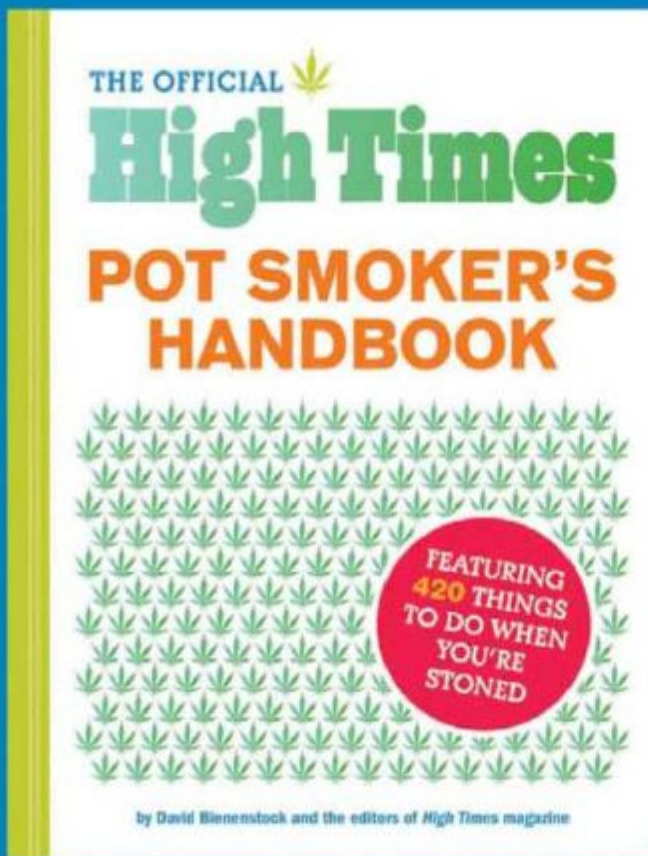
Indoor grow rooms, which rely on a completely artificial growing environment, serve as breeding grounds for pests and diseases.

wiring and electrical equipment is up to code, and that they shut down indoor operations entirely during the dry, hot summers—in both cases to avoid the possibility of starting a wildfire.

But more importantly, CAPP hopes that by educating fellow ganja growers, it can convince them to make the more ethical decision to grow the kind of outdoor, organic ganja that most cannabis consumers still associate with Humboldt's finest. The group also wants to educate cannabis consumers about the benefits—including cost, taste, health and sustainability—of supporting growers who are doing it right.

"It's a really touchy subject, because there's a lot of money involved—and, unfortunately, a lot of people on the buying end don't understand what they're buying into," CAPP's spokesperson says, citing a cultural bias that erroneously equates indoor hydro buds with higher potency. "We need a hip-hop song about organic outdoor to fix the whole problem. Let's get back to the roots of what made Humboldt County famous in the first place."

DON'T GET HIGH WITHOUT IT!



THE OFFICIAL **High Times** POT SMOKER'S HANDBOOK

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By David Bienenstock and the editors of *High Times* magazine

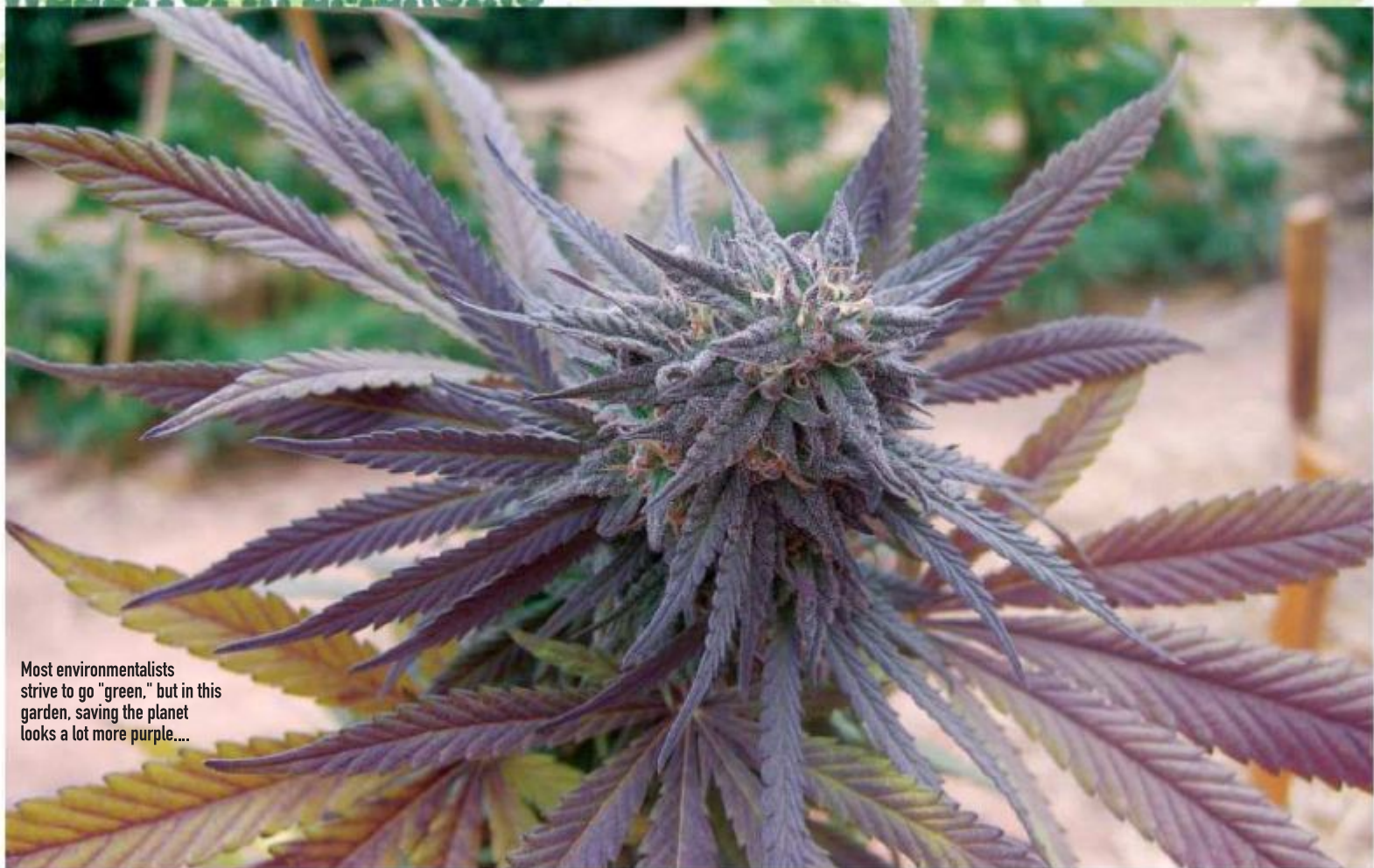
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CHRONICLE BOOKS



Most environmentalists strive to go "green," but in this garden, saving the planet looks a lot more purple....

COVER CROPS

In a time long before factory farming, the men and women who worked the land learned that by rotating different crops on the same pasture, they could ensure that the soil remained well balanced and harvest bigger yields, while keeping pests and diseases off-balance and on the run.

Modern-day ganja growers can also benefit from this ancient wisdom. After a season of vigorous cannabis cultivation, a stretch of soil can find itself significantly depleted of nitrogen, a vital element that next year's marijuana plants will need in order to reach optimal growth. To "fix" this problem, certain crops can be planted in the off-season that will not only thrive in this environment, but actively return nitrogen to the soil as they grow.

Any quality organic-gardening guide will discuss cover crops extensively, but in this instance, the cannabis cultivators that our reporter consulted recommended planting fava beans immediately after harvest, and then coming back in the spring to cut the bean plants down before they went into flowering. Then you turn the soil over until the cut-down stalks are fully buried.

Let the decomposing fava plants sit in the soil for a month before you plant more ganja, and you'll find that your nitrogen-fixing cover crop has decomposed into a solid compost base that attracts earthworms and other beneficial organisms.



Worm your way into the art of vermiculture.

WORM BOXING

Ask any organic farmer about earthworms and you're likely to get an earful—not an earful of worms (hopefully), but rather an earful of praise for these small but incredibly helpful creatures.

So what's so great about having a long, slimy creepy-crawler in your garden? Well, to put it plainly, earthworms eat decaying elements in the soil and poop out the finest nutrient-rich organic fertilizer in the world. They also, well, *worm* their way through the soil, creating small air pockets that allow your plants' roots to stretch and seek nutrients.

A well-maintained compost pile will attract earthworms and eventually increase their number, but by engaging in the dark art of *vermiculture*—also known as "making a worm box"—even a small-scale farmer living alone in an apartment can create an impressive amount of top-quality fertilizer while eliminating a surprisingly large amount of food waste. The basic concept involves raising a specific breed of earthworm known as red wigglers by feeding them your kitchen scraps. The reward comes when the worm box begins to fill up with the kind of fully composted worm poop that your organic ganja craves.

If constructed and maintained properly, your worm box can fit into almost any size space while remaining virtually odorless. As you can see from the picture above, the kind farmers at the Namaste Center have built quite a large worm box for themselves, since they have a lot of plants and plenty of food scraps with so many people living on the land. They obviously have a recommendation when it comes to further reading on the subject of building your own worm box, and there's also lots of good information on the Internet.



The Namaste Center's official trimming teepee.

THE TRIMMING TEEPEE

One of the ways the Namaste Center strives to reduce its impact on the environment is by housing its workers in alternative, low-impact structures made from local renewable resources. Here we see a trimmer making himself at home in a teepee while snipping away at the latest kind buds to emerge from the drying room. Additional Namaste gardeners live in yurts, yomes and other structures that tread lightly on the environment.

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Plenty of sunshine helps these phatty buds grow up tall, strong, and sticky.

CLEAN GREEN GANJA

“Don’t panic, it’s organic”—or so goes a saying popular among devotees of all-natural ganja grown without chemical fertilizers or pesticides. But how do you know that sweet, fat sack of Sour Diesel, Trainwreck or Purple Kush is *really* organic? A lucky few can grow their own, but for the majority of cannabis consumers, there’s just no way to be certain.

Despite the fact that medical-marijuana patients, in states with laws protecting their rights, need organic cannabis to treat their ailments without potentially dangerous chemical additives, the US Department of Agriculture has explicitly forbidden its organic certifiers from extending their services to medical-pot growers. And since no agricultural product can be legally called or labeled “organic” without government certification, the situation creates an inescapable Catch-420 that leaves medical-pot smokers in the dark when it comes to their dank.

That’s where Chris Van Hook and his Clean Green certification program come to the rescue. A California attorney and licensed USDA organic certifier, Van Hook responded to this pressing need by creating his own distinct certification program for medical marijuana, one that he assures consumers is no less stringent than the USDA’s process—and in some ways, including an emphasis on sustainability, demonstrably more stringent.

Clean Green certification is available for any “agricultural crop that is legal in the state in which it’s grown,” but it’s clear the emphasis is on providing medical-marijuana patients with an easy way to ensure that they’re getting the best medicine possible. The program also aims to promote better, healthier growing practices by recognizing the growers who are doing it right and the dispensaries that carry their product.

As an attorney *and* a government-licensed organic certifier, Van Hook is uniquely positioned both to educate growers and dispensaries on the requirements for earning certification, and to defend them against any potential problems encountered in the gray market for medical marijuana. To learn more about the Clean Green process, including an introductory video and information on applying for certification, visit medicalcannabiscaregivers.org/clean_green_certification.lasso. 🌿



AN ECOTOPIAN INTERVIEW WITH ERNEST CALLENBACH

In his 1975 novel *Ecotopia*, author Ernest Callenbach imagined a world in which Northern California, Oregon and Washington break off from the United States and form an independent republic based on living in harmony with the land. Twenty years later, a journalist from the *New York Times-Post* becomes the first official American visitor to Ecotopia since this war of independence. His newspaper columns describe a modern-day paradise in which the ideals and innovations of environmentalists have been put into practice, using modern technology to work with the bounty of nature rather than trying to subdue it, while creating a society based on community rather than consumerism.

That novel—and its prequel, *Ecotopia Emerging*—inspired our journalist to imagine a world worthy of the name Weeditopia, and then to help explain how we can all work together to bring such a happy condition into existence.

So imagine our reporter’s surprise and delight when none other than Ernest Callenbach, still living in Berkeley, invited him over for a cup of tea, as well as a discussion that would touch on medical marijuana, the end of capitalism, curbside composting, Amish farmers with solar panels, the future of the planet, and why pot smokers need to get more ceremonial.

In *Ecotopia*, by the way, the government not only legalizes marijuana, but also provides citizens with high-quality seeds for free. It’s a policy prescription that Callenbach still considers ahead of its time.

“If you look back through human history you will find that people have always wanted to get high in some form or other,” he explains. “When I wrote *Ecotopia*, I had to look at the pros and cons of different mind-altering substances. And it just seemed to me that, in a society where people were trying to live like sensible animals, marijuana looked like the main contender to be the standard mechanism for getting high.”

Unfortunately, despite some obvious benefits, America still hasn’t adopted such an enlightened policy toward marijuana. So does Callenbach see these changes in the future?

“When I wrote *Ecotopia*, I imagined people could figure out the sensible ways to run a sustainable society, and then they would start doing it,” he says. “Now I’m more cynical, and I realize that change is much more generational. New ideas don’t triumph because they’re right: They triumph because the people who championed the old ideas die.”

Visit hightimes.com/weeditopia to read the first article in this series and to listen to a complete audio podcast of the *HIGH TIMES* interview with Ernest Callenbach.



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Americans are always looking north, wondering if it's really true: Is Canada a pot paradise? Not quite—but they're working on it.

CANADIAN BAKIN'

By Mamakind

Much has been made of Canada's relationship with cannabis. Rumor and conjecture conjure up images of Dutch-style coffeeshops in areas like BC's Vansterdam and Ontario's Yongesterdam, as well as clinical-grade, government-grown medical cannabis swiftly and widely prescribed by progressive doctors unswayed by the draw of profit, and a garden in every apartment, villa, bungalow or igloo—in short, a verdant veritable mecca of marijuana. Hell, you can even say the word “bong” in a store that sells them and not get kicked out by the owner!

But as with any relationship—no matter how seemingly perfect—subject to scrutiny under the public eye, the flaws that show up have a ten-

dency to become more potent and meaningful. Your fiscally conservative/socially liberal frozen neighbors to the north have been locked (albeit quietly) in a schizophrenic struggle, trying to deal with being both an independent, world-leading nation and a kowtowing US patsy.

All across Canada, there is evidence of this three-steps-forward-two-steps-back foxtrot. When it comes to pot, we could always attempt to tease apart the medical from the recreational—but the harder we try, the more tangled this knot of confusion, speculation, assertion and denial becomes. So let's just not bother and look instead at Canada's dance with the devil weed as a whole.

POT OF THE PROVINCES

There's more to the Canadian pot scene than Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal. Growers throughout the Great White North cultivate quality cannabis, and each province has its own favorites and standbys. Danny Danko breaks each one down for a coast-to-coast tasting of Canada's winning weed.

NEW BRUNSWICK WHITE WIDOW

The Maritime provinces, home to the original Acadians (who became the Cajuns of Louisiana), aren't known for their pot, but they soon will be. Their White Widow smokes perfectly and tastes like Cali's finest.



HT ARCHIVE, LOCHFOOT (OPPOSITE PAGE)



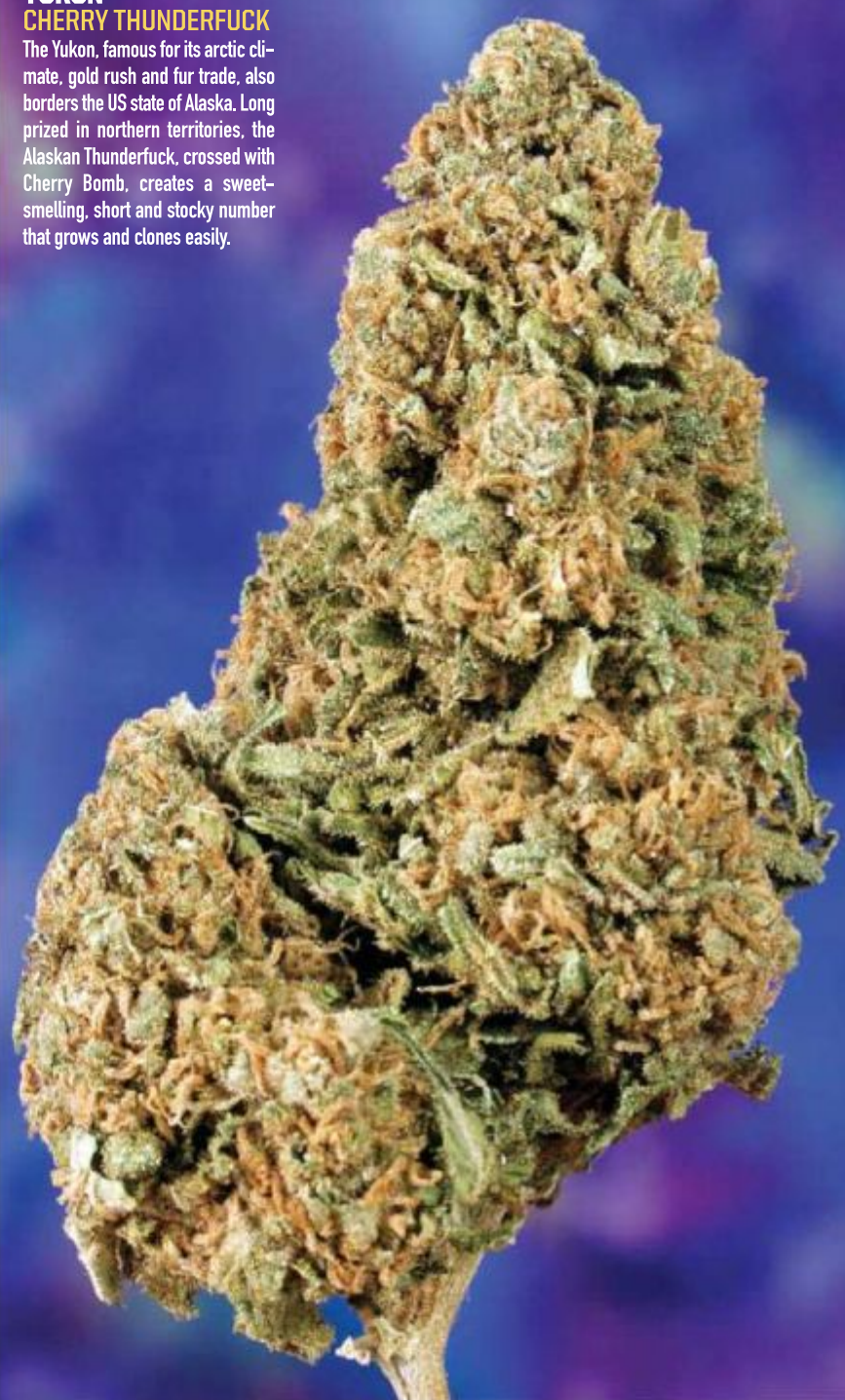
BRITISH COLUMBIA PURPLE KUSH

BC growers produce plenty of pretty and potent pot, but the Purple Kush is one of the finest. Skunky and strong, with lavender coloring and trichomes galore, the PK commands high prices from Victoria to Vancouver.



YUKON CHERRY THUNDERFUCK

The Yukon, famous for its arctic climate, gold rush and fur trade, also borders the US state of Alaska. Long prized in northern territories, the Alaskan Thunderfuck, crossed with Cherry Bomb, creates a sweet-smelling, short and stocky number that grows and clones easily.

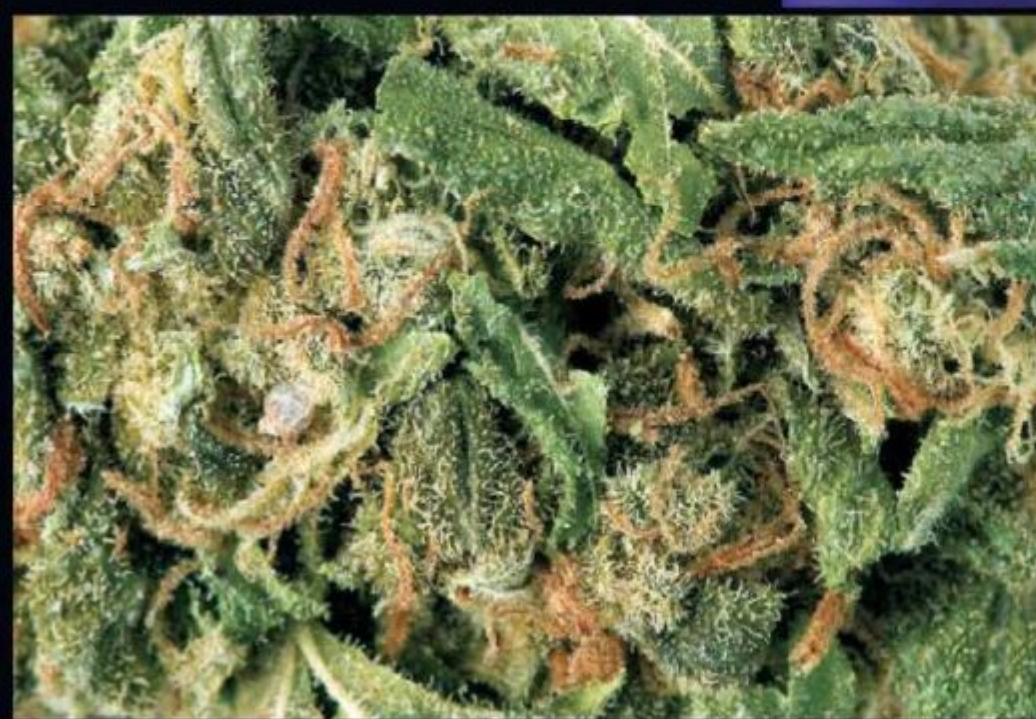


NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AURORA INDICA

Afghani-based pot plants seem to do well in Canada's rocky and mountainous areas, and the Aurora Indica is no exception. Fast-flowering and supremely potent, this strain continues to flourish in the Great White North.

NUNAVUT DIESEL RYDER

This northernmost territory, inhabited primarily by the native First Nations people, stretches over an area the size of Western Europe. Short seasons and cold weather require fast-flowering plants, and the Diesel Ryder—a relative of the automatically flowering Lowryder strain—finishes quickly and delivers the goods.



WE LOVE WEED, EH?

According to the 2007 World Drug Report, put out by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Canadians *do* love weed in all its many incarnations—in fact, we rank No. 1 among industrialized nations for cannabis consumption. The birthplace of Tommy Chong and those icons of the new pothead cinema, Seth Rogen and James Franco, boasts toking proclivities *four times* the world's average. It's no wonder, then, that the first stop on Cheech & Chong's "Light Up America & Canada" tour last September—their first live performance in over 25 years—was at the National Arts Center, in the normally staid Canadian capital of Ottawa. How fitting that the reunion should take place in the very country (albeit on the other side of that country) where the duo first took to the stage to make stoner history.

In 1969, around the time that Cheech & Chong were about to perform for the very first time, the federal government tasked Canadian Supreme



MANITOBA LA CONFIDENTIAL

Another prairie province, Manitoba doesn't get the attention that others do, but it surely grows some primo pot. The LA Confidential from DNA Genetics puts Winnipeg on the cannabis map with potency and flavor galore.

Court Justice Gerald Le Dain with chairing a Commission of Inquiry Into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs, better known as the Le Dain Commission. This investigative commission completed its work in 1972, taking into consideration the testimony of over 12,000 individuals, including the peacefully outspoken John Lennon. The resulting report offered some startlingly sensible recommendations, including removing cannabis completely from the Narcotics Control Act (the precursor to today's Controlled Drugs and Substances Act), thereby legalizing it and shifting the responsibility for regulation to the provinces in a manner similar to alcohol and tobacco. The report also implored the government to fund formal scientific research into the effects of marijuana, for good or ill, on the health and well-being of its users. Unfortunately, the federal government promptly ignored the Le Dain Commission's findings.

However, in keeping with the spirit of this report, Canada did go on to develop an international reputation for reserved open-mindedness, which led in turn to our current reputation for having some of the best, most available pot in the world. The Vietnam War brought a slew of American draft dodgers flowing over the border to hide out in relative peace among the enormous stretches of forests, mountains and islands that make up a significant part of the second-largest country on Earth, in terms of area. They brought with them landrace genetics picked up in the course of their travels, either backpacking on the hippie hashish trails of the Middle East, Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent, or on military deployments or surfing safaris in the South East Asian and Pacific Rim countries. Having no legal way to support themselves, and finding the terrain and attitude similar to the more tolerant parts of the homeland they'd exiled themselves



SASKATCHEWAN WHITE RHINO

Growers in the prairies need plants with short stature and an even shorter flowering time. White Rhino fits the bill, with chunky buds covered in sugary resin.

from, these enterprising expats turned to cultivation and/or smuggling.

Thus came the birth of the infamous BC Bud, a product characterized by an almost snobbish attention to quality as well as its mind-boggling yield—something that British Columbia may no longer lay sole claim to among the nation's pot-producing provinces and territories (which now number 13 in all, to one degree or another). Cannabis production has become one of the largest sectors of the Canadian economy, which has drawn the considerable ire of the US Drug Czar.

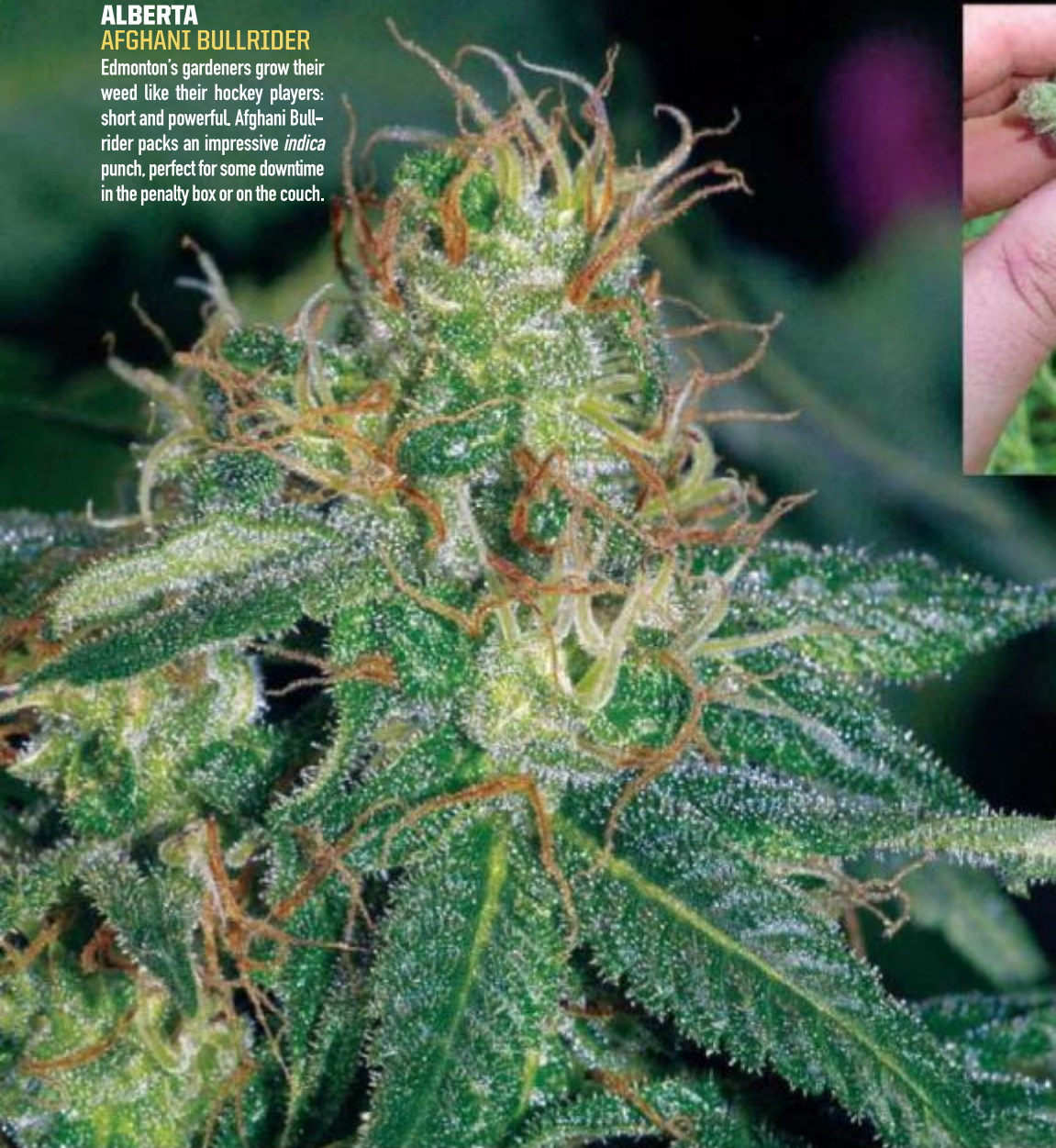
The driving force in the Canadian cannabis economy is surely the seed business. If you lined up the cannabis seeds sold by Canadian growers to the entire world in one year—with the exception of the US, thanks to the threatened, unresolved extradition of Marc Emery, which has scared the bejesus out of anyone even considering mailing seeds, so that Americans now travel over the border to purchase their beans in person—that line would surely extend from Victoria, BC, all the way to the Maritimes. New seed companies and seed banks seem to blossom here on a monthly basis, harnessing the Canadian skill at (and obsession with) adopting cannabis genetics from all over the planet in order to make them viable for every market.

And just in time for the global recession that's weighing so heavily on everyone's mind these days, a Toronto group, Canadians for Cannabis, is mounting the Economic Pot Rally in Queens Park (home of the world's largest Global Marijuana March every May). The intention of this gathering is to highlight the positive economic impact that freeing both marijuana and hemp would have on Canada's ability to withstand the current crisis.



ALBERTA AFGHANI BULLRIDER

Edmonton's gardeners grow their weed like their hockey players: short and powerful. Afghani Bullrider packs an impressive *indica* punch, perfect for some downtime in the penalty box or on the couch.



According to financial analysts, however, there is one part of the country that already seems poised to weather the storm: the province of Alberta. The province's largest city, Calgary, is the headquarters of Canada's ruling (though likely not for much longer) Conservative Party, as well as the location of the second-highest number of corporate headquarters in Canada (after Toronto) and the seat of the country's steadfast *legal* economic engine, the energy sector. In fact, the West's insatiable consumption of petroleum products has translated into plenty of steady, high-paying work throughout Alberta, which makes the province one of the few markets in which people can still afford to buy high-end pot and its accompanying paraphernalia. That said, the price of an ounce of primo hasn't changed much in over a decade: around C\$200 an ounce. Though notorious for its Stedenko-like cops, cowboy hats and political conservatism at its most entrenched, the province of Alberta even saw the birth of its own regional cannabis competition, the Alberta Cup, in the fall of 2008.

Calgary420, an activist group spearheaded by the dedicated duo of Keith and Debbie Fagin, has been putting together rallies, socials, legal-information packages, and patient- and public-awareness programs in the city since 2005. Using a similar model, the Southern Alberta Cannabis

Club was founded in 2007 in the university town of Lethbridge, while Edmonton420 was founded in Alberta's capital in 2008.

Canada's cannabis community is currently celebrating a long-overdue "victory for sick people," according to Alan Young, a York University law professor who is Toronto's go-to counsel for the Canadian anti-prohibition movement. An October ruling by the Federal Court of Appeals loosened the monopoly that the federal government has on medical marijuana, further stoking the country's cannabis economy. Whereas legal medicinal users once had a choice of either growing their own medicine, designating a caregiver to grow it for them (but them alone), or buying relatively expensive, heavy-metal- and lumber-laden schwag grown in Flin Flon, a Manitoba mine operated by Prairie Plant Systems (the government's only contractor), they now have the option of using private growers who are permitted to raise plants for numerous patients. This means that companies like Carasel Harvest Supply Corporation and Island Harvest (Canada's only certified-organic cannabis producers) can now vie for what everyone hopes will be multiple government contracts. Obviously, smaller operations can often be run more economically, and more companies competing in the market means more choices for medical users trying to find the best medicine.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND BLUEBERRY HASH PLANT

The tiny island province known as "PEI" boasts some of the best farmland in Canada, and its tight-knit communities share genetics and growing techniques to create some powerhouse pot. The local Blueberry Hash Plant tastes sweet and induces a mind-numbing stone that lasts for hours.

Moreover, Canada's population has among the highest public-acceptance rates in the world—over 90 percent—for medical cannabis, with the province of Quebec polling at a staggering *98 percent*. This past year saw Marc-Boris St. Maurice—a longtime activist, founder of the federal Marijuana Party of Canada and president of the 1,000-strong Montreal Compassion Club—open his second "compassion center" (the nonprofit Canadian equivalent of a California-style med-pot dispensary) in 400-year-old Quebec City. And roughly three years ago, Nova Scotia's Rick Simpson started his crusade to bring the healing power of cannabis oil to the people free of charge. After seeing ingested cannabis oil (which he refers to as "hemp oil") provide significant relief to friends and family members suffering from all sorts of nasty ailments, from diabetes to cancer, Rick founded Phoenix Tears, a not-for-profit entity dedicated to spreading information about the use of natural hemp oil and hemp medicines as an effective treatment for a number of serious illnesses. He's beginning a cross-country tour of Canada in May 2009—filming a documentary as he goes—in which he will visit the fields of fine cannabis from which he harvests his life-saving oil.

Ted Smith, who founded one of the nation's oldest dispensaries, the Cannabis Buyers Club of Canada, in Victoria, BC, later went on to originate the University of Victoria's ongoing non-credit lecture series and student organization, the Hempology 101 Society. In February, he hosted the society's first annual film festival and 10th Annual Cannabis Convention, which drew several high-profile activists and noted speakers.

While a certain amount of ideological head-butting exists between Mr. Smith's organization and that of longtime activist Philippe Lucas, the founder of the Vancouver Island Compassion Society (VICS) and a newly appointed Victoria City Council member, Phil and Ted's ongoing dedication to bringing the power of cannabis to the people who need it most is one sure sign of Canada's overall desire to accept cannabis and move forward.

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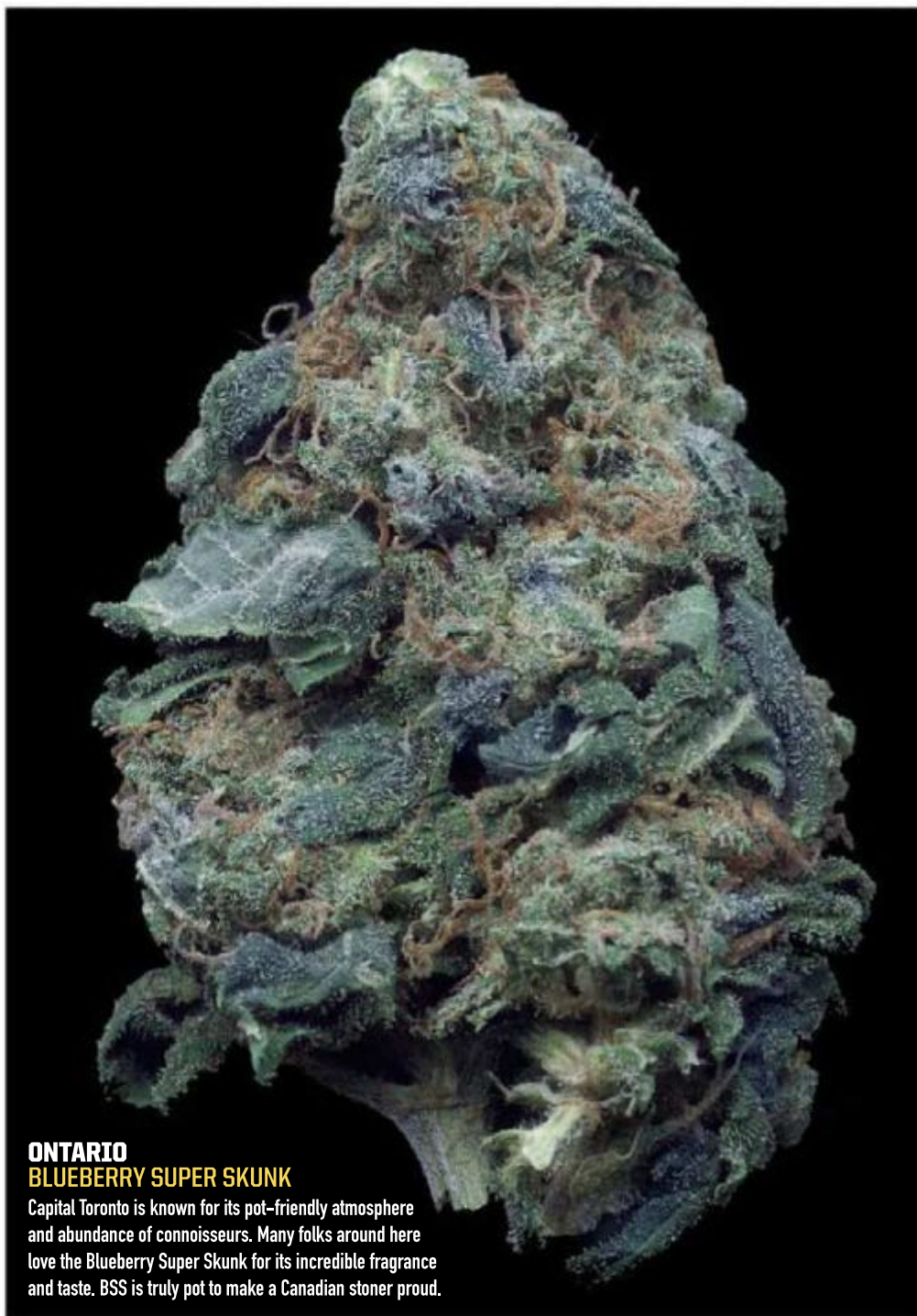


WE LOVE WEED—NOT!

Before you start thinking that Canada is light-years ahead of the US when it comes to marijuana acceptance, consider this: There are currently 13 states in the US where cannabis has been decriminalized and/or there are medical-marijuana programs in place. Granted, Canadian provinces don't possess the autonomy of American states, but the fact remains that there are still no provinces in Canada that have systematically decriminalized pot. And whereas a large American state like California boasts hundreds of med-pot dispensaries, the whole of Canada has roughly a *dozen*. Also, while thousands of Americans now have medical cards affording them some measure of protection from being prosecuted, the number of sick Canadians who have secured their cards is a mere 3,000—and that number keeps dropping, as the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations are almost purposefully unwieldy and impossible to apply systemically. Also, many doctors are still too spooked and/or indifferent to prescribe cannabis as medicine, even though the authorizations are 100 per cent legal in the eyes of any Canadian court.

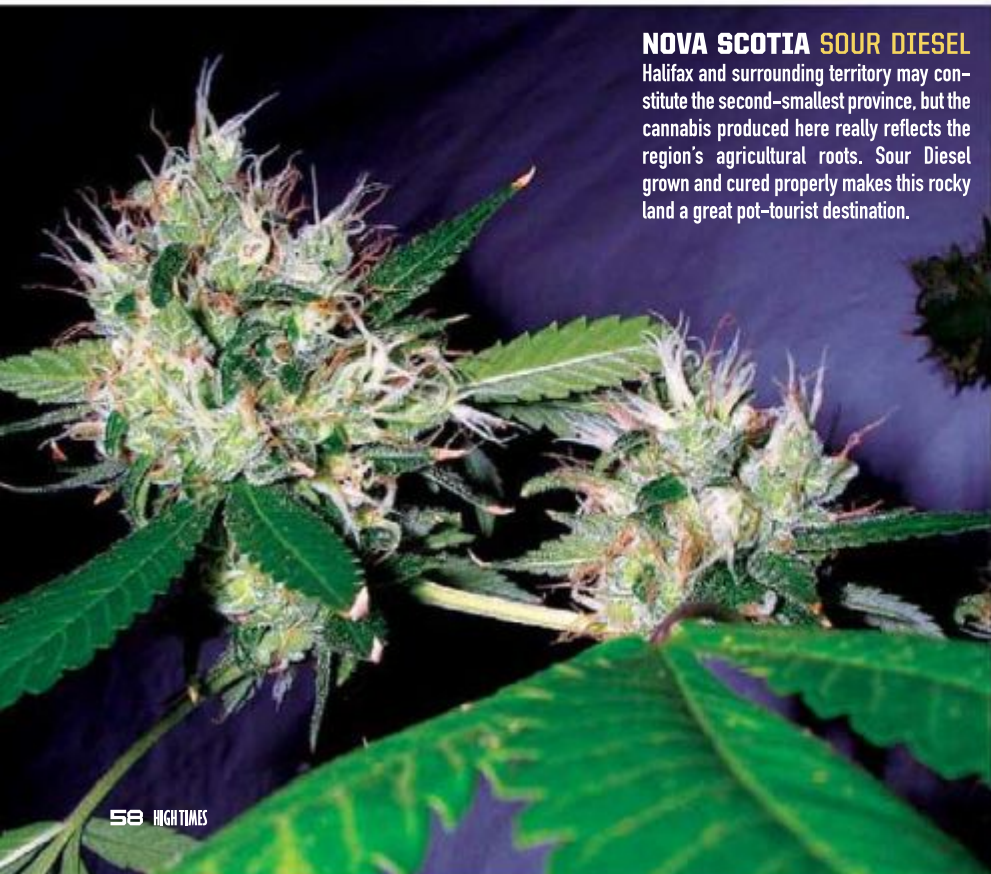
What about the 2003 court decision that supposedly rendered even simple possession laws null and void in Canada, because the federal government failed to adequately retool medical access as ordered? In December 2008, this notion was finally laid to rest when Ontario Superior Court Judge Eva Frank ruled that the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations are in fact sound, and therefore the criminal prohibition of cannabis is still in place. Some challenges are being mounted to this decision, but the optimism that characterized the anti-prohibition community over the last five years has been dented somewhat.

The end of 2008 also saw the raid on Yongesterdam's beloved Kindred Café, one of many BYOB ("bring your own bud") venues in Canada, where Torontonians can smoke freely and without hassle while enjoying free-trade coffee and luscious desserts. An undercover officer was allegedly given a pot-infused milkshake on the premises in early September, but owner Dominic Cramer has yet to see the case go through the courts, and Kindred has since cautiously opened its doors again.



ONTARIO BLUEBERRY SUPER SKUNK

Capital Toronto is known for its pot-friendly atmosphere and abundance of connoisseurs. Many folks around here love the Blueberry Super Skunk for its incredible fragrance and taste. BSS is truly pot to make a Canadian stoner proud.



NOVA SCOTIA SOUR DIESEL

Halifax and surrounding territory may constitute the second-smallest province, but the cannabis produced here really reflects the region's agricultural roots. Sour Diesel grown and cured properly makes this rocky land a great pot-tourist destination.

THE FUTURE?

Although recent developments have humbled the cannabis community, it still has plenty of fight left. The Canadian Cannabis Coalition, founded by Deb Harper in 1999, brings together virtually every major anti-prohibition activist in the nation, creating an invaluable resource for fellow activists, lawyers, medical patients and recreational users alike. Members discuss and advise on legal cases in every jurisdiction and assess varied approaches to ending cannabis prohibition in general. And while attempts to coalesce activists of any sort usually result in failure due to the strong personalities and opinions involved, the CCC has done extremely well thus far, sticking together and addressing these universal issues head-on.

In the end, the most vexing task that confronts the cannabis community here is trying to reconcile two polar opposites: the enormous constituency that wants to see an end to prohibition in this country, and the spineless politicians who allow the government of the United States to dictate Canadian drug policy. One wonders whether the gentle giant of the North, where you can legally marry your gay partner but can't post a sign in the province of Quebec in a language other than French, will ever meaningfully acknowledge the wishes of its own citizens and become the global trendsetter that it appears to be in the eyes of the rest of the world—and that it so desperately wishes to become itself. ✨

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR SENSI STAR

The northeast coast of Canada has a big native population and a history of fishing, mining and oil production, yet their contributions to cannabis culture are relatively unknown. The "Newfies" do, however, grow terrific pot, and their version of Paradise Seeds' Sensi Star dazzles locals and visitors alike.







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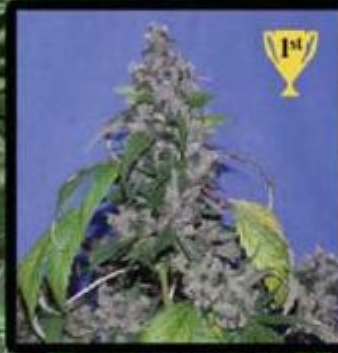
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Liberty and VISC photos by Kat in Skunk issues v3#5 & v3#8

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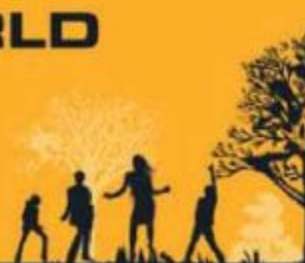
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Earn a diploma in dank at Oaksterdam University, America's ultimate—and only—institute of 'higher' learning.

By David Bienenstock

This empty classroom will soon fill up with eager Oaksterdam University students.

WELCOME CLASS



OU's main campus in downtown Oakland.

Medical marijuana should be grown and handled by qualified professionals.



Many OU students hope to find work supplying the medical cannabis industry.

Just set foot in the lecture hall, and you can immediately tell that Oaksterdam University isn't a *real* college. How? Because the students show up on time, take detailed notes and pay close attention to their instructors. Also, some kind-hearted soul has brought in enough homemade pot brownies to share with the entire class.

Tonight is the second-to-last session of the fall semester, a comprehensive program that covers local politics, state and federal legal issues, beginning and advanced horticulture, concocting ganja-infused foods and tinctures, and opening and managing your very own medical-cannabis dispensary. Each class starts with a 90 minute lecture and ends with a 30 minute grow lab. At the end of 13 weeks, qualified students receive the highest level of certification available from Oaksterdam University, which was founded in 2007 as the nation's first (and still only) trade school for the medical-cannabis industry.

Headquartered in Oakland, CA, with a satellite campus now open in Los Angeles, OU also offers weekend seminars for beginning and advanced students, as well as a new program in "continuing legal education" for lawyers interested in effectively defending the rights of medical-marijuana patients and providers. The brainchild of 2006 *HIGH TIMES* Freedom Fighter of the Year Richard Lee, the nation's premier institute of "higher" learning has already graduated hundreds of students, many of whom have landed jobs as medical growers, cannabis-dispensary managers or professional "budtenders"—not to mention those

who've opened their own shops or planted their own gardens.

And then there are those who never left. For instance, the first smiling face you encounter at OU belongs to administrator LaTanya Linzie. Like most of Oaksterdam's small, hardworking staff, she first arrived as a student and patient, after discovering marijuana's potential to literally change her life.

A big-hearted woman with an infectious laugh, Linzie quickly becomes emotional when describing the family tragedy that led to her debilitating battle with depression and insomnia. She endured several expensive, ineffective, side-effect-riddled attempts at treating the condition with prescription drugs; then a longtime friend and cancer survivor finally suggested that she try medical cannabis.

Linzie had smoked pot a few times in college, and even enjoyed it, but hadn't gotten high in years. "I smoked some Purple Kush before bed, and when I woke up, I was in tears," she recalls, grinning widely at the memory of her first full night of sleep in over a year. That morning, she sampled a *sativa* strain before breakfast, and from there on out, "each day got better and better," including the day she saw a local news station's report on Oaksterdam University and decided to enroll.

Linzie arrived at OU eager to learn more about the wondrous plant that had so drastically improved her quality of life. She ended up finding not only a new career, but also a whole new community of support.

"The social aspect of the class was very important," she says. "For the first time, I was with a group of people like me."

This Oaksterdam affiliated grow room shows the school's emphasis on combining cannabis cultivation with pot politics.



Among those likeminded colleagues, Linzie works most directly with Adrienne Calcote, Oaksterdam's young, bustling, nose-ringed chancellor. Calcote makes time to chat with *HIGH TIMES* before class, sharing a quick smoke while outlining her meteoric rise from student to intern to receptionist to head of the academic program. Her experience with medical marijuana began at home, when she started growing herb as a caretaker for her father, who uses marijuana to treat the chronic pain from a severe back injury he sustained after a nasty fall down a cliff.

"Cannabis has proven its ability to improve quality of life and provide relief, which I witnessed firsthand as a caretaker for my father," Calcote says. At the time, she was working in a lawyer's office, trying to save up money for college.

"As well as I did, I hated it," she recalls. And so she ditched office life and enrolled in one of Oaksterdam University's earliest sessions. Now she oversees a program that services more than 100 students per semester, with a steady demand for expansion. She must also ensure that the curriculum continues to evolve in order to stay current with the ever-shifting legal status of medical cannabis, both in California and across the country.

Fortunately, the chancellor can rely on guest lectures and class visits from a faculty that reads like a veritable Mount Kushmore of medical marijuana, including Prop. 215 author Dennis Peron; Eddy Lepp, of Eddy's Medicinal Gardens; comedian and convict Tommy Chong; attorney Robert Raich, who took two separate medical-marijuana cases to the Supreme Court; author and investigator Chris Conrad; and Jeff Jones, co-founder of the leg-

endary Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative and now the chancellor of OU's Los Angeles campus.

Tonight's class opens with an impassioned appeal from the chancellor for students to get involved as volunteers for political candidates who have proven themselves dedicated to the cause of medical marijuana. Oaksterdam University considers this kind of activism to be crucial, and it's certainly easy to see how the level of autonomy enjoyed by pot patients and providers in Oakland and the surrounding Bay Area is directly related to the loud, proud and unrelenting support of the local community.

The chancellor also mentions the brownies that will be served during the break, and then introduces James Anthony—a land-use attorney who once worked for the City of Oakland. Now a member of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), Anthony regrets the aspects of his former job that put him at odds with medical-marijuana dispensaries, and considers speaking to Oaksterdam University students a way to help repay his karmic debt.

Still, don't expect a pep talk. Anthony's first bit of advice to students is to *not* open a medical-cannabis dispensary, followed by a list of things the federal government can take away should you ignore this advice: your house, your money, your children and your freedom. Sounds like a real bummer, but then again, this isn't the Learning Annex. Opening your own business is hard enough, but until the laws change, potential cannabis-dispensary owners need to recognize that they are involved in an act of "massive, collective civil disobedience."



OU chancellor Adrienne Calcote started as a caregiver for her father.

OU administrator LaTanya Linzie first arrived as a student.

Joey Ereneta teaches Horticulture 101 and 102 at Oaksterdam University.



Oaksterdam students learn how to operate a medical cannabis dispensary.

The subject quickly turns to the ongoing class project, a mixed garden of Blueberry and Shiva Skunk that has just gone into flowering.

As someone who's wielded the power of the law from the other side, Anthony knows that he has a responsibility to present the worst-case scenario—because if this is enough to scare you off, then you've probably saved yourself a lot of heartache down the road. But should you remain undeterred, the first and most crucial consideration is where to open—ideally in a location where you'll be welcomed, or at least tolerated.

"You have to become the expert on your local government," Anthony advises. "Talk to people and find out what they think about medical marijuana."

Next, you need a business plan—a real one, which includes having at least three months' worth of operating expenses on hand before you open. Also, never sign a commercial lease without a thorough lawyer's review; never open a cannabis dispensary without informing your landlord of the "nature" of your business; and always pay your sales tax. The lecture ends with detailed instructions on the pros and cons of collectives, sole proprietorships, limited-liability corporations and other methods of organizing a "canna-business."

The class, a multiracial, multigenerational, 50/50 mix of men and women, makes the most of the Q&A session that follows, recognizing the value of having direct access to one of the few lawyers around with a true working knowledge of medical-marijuana laws—not just in theory, but

also in practice. Then we all take a five-minute break to eat pot brownies and mingle.

The subject quickly turns to the ongoing class project, a mixed garden of Blueberry and Shiva Skunk that has just gone into flowering. After an hour-and-a-half lecture on arcane land-use issues and a detailed description of the "pot-holes" awaiting unfortunate dispensary owners, everyone's pretty happy to greet Joey Ereneta, who teaches Horticulture 101 and 102 at Oaksterdam University.

Hanging loose in an Izod sweater and a pair of worn Chuck Taylors, Ereneta devotes tonight's lab time to the process of harvesting. A veteran of the Cannabis Action Network and a frequent consultant to individuals and small patient cooperatives in California, OU's "pot professor" starts by stressing the importance of knowing your strain, particularly how long it will need to flower before reaching optimal yield and potency. After a step-by-step "show and tell" demonstration using a live plant, Ereneta stays after class to go over the finer points of the process. A sizable portion of the student body sticks around to observe and ask questions.

"A lot of students arrive and they already have a simple way of growing that works, but hopefully I can show them better options," Ereneta says. "I feel blessed to be passing on so much of what I've learned."

In the back of the room, Oaksterdam University founder Richard Lee watches all of this unfold with an air of contentment that may have to do

with how much he's accomplished on behalf of his favorite plant, but could also be easily attributed to one of the pot brownies.

"Don't forget to water the plants," the founder reminds his horticulture professor—a simple but fitting piece of advice. Lee himself started advocating for marijuana in Oakland long before the first dispensary opened, and through all the ups and downs, he's never forgotten to "water" the emerging grassroots of the movement.

Next week, another semester at Oaksterdam University will come to an end, the students will take their final exams, and anyone who scores above 75 percent will earn a diploma. Like seeds blown in the wind, the members of this graduating class will land many places and meet many fates, but they will all leave their alma mater with the knowledge inside them required to grow up strong and vital. ✨

RICHARD LEE INTERVIEW ONLINE

Check out hightimes.com/oaksterdam/ for complete coverage of the Bay Area marijuana scene, including an exclusive interview with Oaksterdam University founder Richard Lee. Our 2006 HIGH TIMES Freedom Fighter of the Year discusses his work with the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative, opening the Bulldog Café, publishing the *Oaksterdam News*, pushing for the passage of Measure Z and founding his own university.

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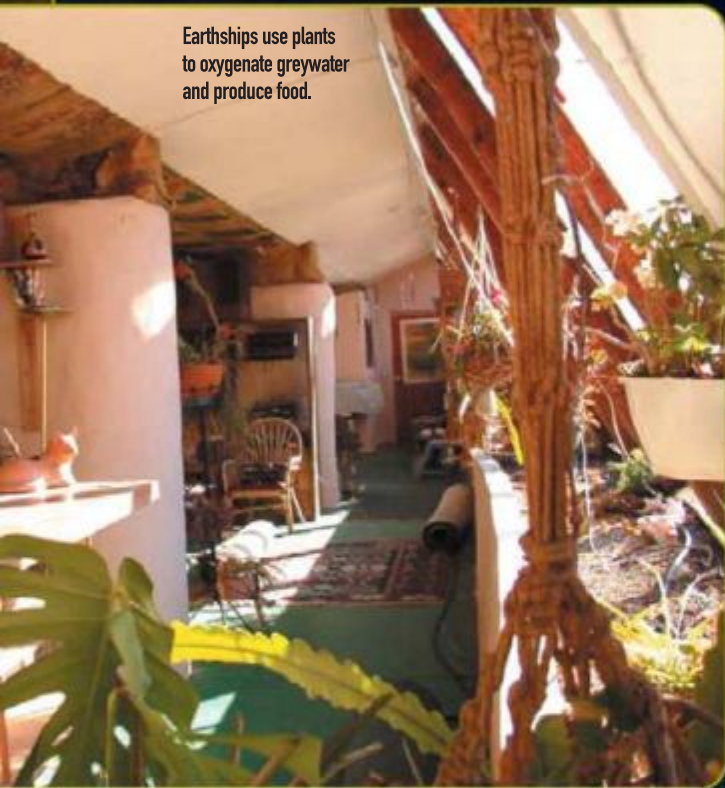
Garbage Warrior Michael Reynolds
at Negril's Blue Cave Castle.

TALKING TRASH

WITH MICHAEL REYNOLDS

INTERVIEW BY BOBBY BLACK

Earthships use plants to oxygenate greywater and produce food.



It's a grower's dream home: an eco-friendly, Gaudí-esque palace that operates completely off the grid for under \$100 a year, where you can have a hydroponic garden in the middle of your living room that runs off your bathwater. Oh, and did we mention it's constructed entirely out of garbage? That's right—a beautifully designed house that's built almost entirely out of old tires, aluminum cans and plastic bottles (as well as natural materials like dirt and stone), that generates electricity from the sun and wind and controls climate using the earth itself. It's called an Earthship, and it's the brainchild of visionary architect Michael Reynolds.

Reynolds first began developing his revolutionary "Earthship Biotechture" around 35 years ago. Since then, he and his team have fought the system and traveled the world demonstrating his 21st-century architectural methods and constructing low-cost housing for those in need. He's also written five books, been the subject of a documentary film entitled *Garbage Warrior*, and appeared on *The Colbert Report* to promote his vision of a greener infrastructure. We recently ran into Reynolds in Jamaica, where he was in the process of building a new Earthship hotel in the hills outside Negril.

Tell us about Earthship Biotechture.

In short, it's an absolutely sustainable building method that has evolved over 35 years. [Earthships] make their own power, they harvest their own water, they contain their own sewage, they grow their own food, they heat and cool themselves, and they're made from byproducts of the world we live in.

When and where was the first Earthship built?

The first building, out of beer cans, that launched this project was in Taos, New Mexico, in the early '70s. But the first one we called an Earthship was about 20 years ago—again in Taos.

Where did you get the inspiration to create an Earthship?

The first sparks of it came in the early '70s, when we had TV shows about garbage being thrown everywhere and clear-cutting timber in the northeast US. Since garbage was a problem, and the timber they were making housing out of was a problem to the planet, we tried to figure out a way to make housing out of garbage rather than out of trees. That's how it started. Then, later in the '70s, we ended up hearing about the energy crunch, and that led to thermal mass storage in buildings. All the scientists and physicists were trying to do that, and we found that beating dirt into tires created big thermal-mass bricks. Tires—something you want to get rid of; thermal mass—something you need. So rammed-earth bricks became a new building product that was very energy-efficient, because it stores whatever energy you put into it. Then we just went further and further, to where we now have houses in a community in New Mexico where it gets down to 20 or 30 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, and up to 100 degrees, and the houses hang at a few degrees above and below 70 all year round—*without fuel*. It's 30 below zero outside, and we're growing bananas in our living room while our sewage is running through it! Sometimes we get in trouble for that, because it's breaking every rule that ever existed. But it's food, it's comfort, it's water, it's heating and cooling ... it's *everything*.

How are sustainable houses able to stay hot and cold when they need to be?

Well, just heating and cooling doesn't make something sustainable. Heating and cooling without fuel is a large step, but you're also talking water, contained and treated sewage, power, what it's built with, its carbon footprint—you're talking about every aspect of life. There's a different concept for every one of these things, and they're all woven together into a tapestry that ends up being called an Earthship. The heating and cooling part is just physics—the temperature is stored in very massive walls whether it's warm or cool temperature. The walls act as a sort of flywheel. They stabilize and contain temperature. Then you insulate the outside of that, and it's an energy bank that continues to give back to you.



Earthship biotechture transforms old tires into geothermal bricks.

What are the logistics of the utilities?

The roof is designed so that, rather than shedding water, it catches water and stores it in cisterns. In many places on the planet, water is at a premium, so we recycle the water—we flush the toilet with used water, things like that. And it runs through a whole system where we use the biology of plants to filter it so you can reuse it—not for drinking, but for washing. We're treating the bath, shower and kitchen-sink water by running it through these things we call "botanical cells": rubber-lined pits that the plant roots go down into, like hydroponics. The plants oxygenate the greywater and clean it up—and then the plants produce food. So it's all linked together, like the systems in your body. Your circulatory system, nervous system, your digestive system—you can't separate them; they're all together. It's the same way in these houses. The water-harvesting system is totally woven into the sewage-treatment system, which is totally woven into the food-production system and heating and cooling system. It's real simple biology, but it's fine-tuned.

Where did you get the knowledge and ability to do all this?

I graduated from an architectural school in Cincinnati. I got an architect's license, then got it taken away in New Mexico for breaking rules. I still have it in Arizona and Colorado. So I'm like a licensed architect that has realized that ... when I look around, architects to me are like boat builders on a drying-up sea—there's nothing for them unless they change their whole program. My whole reason for doing this is just responding to the world around me. It's not like I'm trying to get everybody "green" or "sustainable"—I'm sick of those two words, if you want to know the truth. They're like "peace" and "love" in the '60s—everybody's saying it. It's just a logical response to the world around me. We're running out of oil, so we need to find some other energy. The planet has shortages of water in a lot of places, so we need to find another way to get water. We've got garbage stacked up in mountains and we continue to make new materials, so we need to find a way to use our garbage. It's just total logic. It's as simple as how a dog will lie in the shade in the summertime, and it'll lie in the sun in the wintertime. That's all there is to everything we do.

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How do you go about building an Earthship?

It's just like any other building: You design it (with an Earthship, you have *us* design it), provide construction drawings, get a permit ... that used to be a big issue, but it's becoming less and less so. The rules and regulations almost inhibit people from taking new steps on how to live, and we fight that too. But you get drawings and a permit—and we have a lot of books and DVDs out there on how to do it. The type of building we do caters to the type of people who can participate in it themselves, so that happens a lot. But some of them just have us do it, or have a contractor do it.

What's the cost and time frame of putting up an Earthship?

The time frame is basically the same as a regular house—maybe a little longer. When we come on exhibition gigs like this, we get real focused and staged for the whole thing, so we're going to put this building up in three weeks—15 working days. It won't be absolutely nailed-out finished, painted and all, but it should be up structurally and catching water and harvesting electricity and things like that. So when we do this kind of thing, it takes a very short time to get it up. But for a normal project that's not a demonstration, they'll take as long as a regular house.

Is it extremely difficult and complicated, or is it something that regular people can undertake on their own? We're really trying to make it so that regular people can do it, and a lot of regular people have, but still ... we're again dealing with a lot of different issues: heating and cooling, structure, electricity, water harvesting, containment and treatment of sewage onsite, and production of food. So for one person to educate themselves in all of those issues is a task. Some people

'IT'S 30 BELOW ZERO OUTSIDE, AND WE'RE GROWING BANANAS IN OUR LIVING ROOM!'

may be able to structurally build it, but might need help with different areas or systems.

I think it would help the whole issue if kids were taught, from the first grade on, facts about these methods of sustaining yourself—along with reading, writing and arithmetic, how to stay fed, stay warm without fuel, how to get water without sucking it out of the aquifers, and how to treat your own sewage without putting into the ocean or river or wherever.

When an Earthship is built for someone, are they educated about how to work and maintain it? Could they call you guys for help?

Well, we make them really user-friendly, and we provide a user's manual. But once they're built, then if something goes wrong, a local handyman can more or less deal with it if we tell them what to do. The biggest issue with these things is really accepting the concept of it, because none of it is rocket science.

It's more like earth science.

Yeah ... it's real simple biology and physics. Native Americans and groundhogs have got it down—we don't.

So they can be adapted to basically any terrain and climate?

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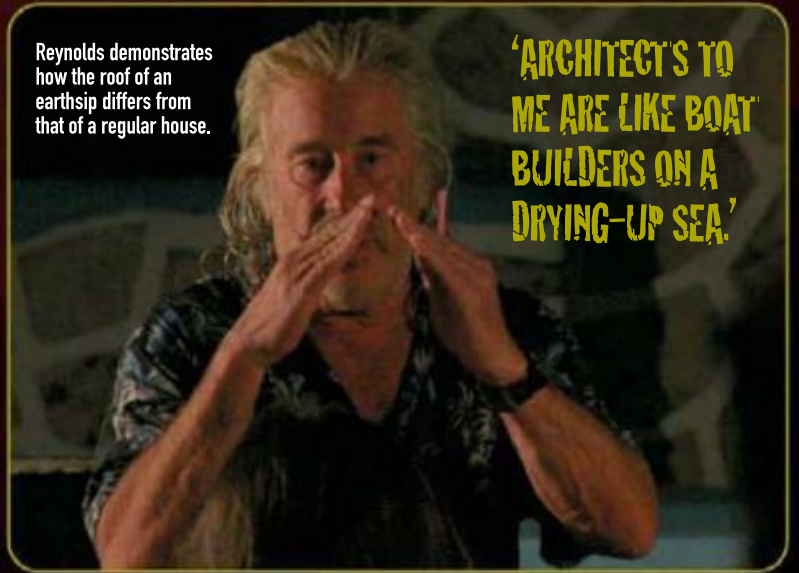
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Reynolds demonstrates how the roof of an earthship differs from that of a regular house.



'ARCHITECTS TO ME ARE LIKE BOAT BUILDERS ON A DRYING-UP SEA.'

climate. Usually, if you're going to build a resort or building somewhere, the first thing you have to do is get your utilities in—power, water and sewage. Well, these buildings are cellular; they are their own systems. They don't have a middleman—a power plant, a sewage-treatment plant; they are everything in themselves. So you can place one wherever you want. You can drop us down from a helicopter on the top of the Andes somewhere and we can build there, because we don't need any facilities—our building is independent of all of that.

One of the reasons we have fun doing this is because it's sort of like planting seeds. You go, "Whoa—we don't need power lines!" When I come to a place even like Negril, I really notice the power lines, the poles and the wires going everywhere; it's like they're moving electricity. Meanwhile, wherever I plant myself, I can suck electricity out of the sky—I don't need wires.

Where else have you built Earthships?

Because of its uniqueness, we have continuously been asked to go around the world and demonstrate or exhibit this part or that part of it. We did one at 14,000 feet in the mountains in Bolivia. We've been to Japan, Scotland, England, Spain, Mexico, Belgium, Hawaii ... pretty much all over. We went to the Andaman Islands after the tsunami hit and did one in the devastated area. We just did one in Nicaragua. We're here in Jamaica now, and we're headed to Bonaire [in the Netherlands] for a month after this to do a hotel. People are starting to see that if you come to a hotel, and all of the lights and food and drinks and everything are all produced without a diesel generator or a bunch of wires or a sewage sys-

tem, it would educate people while they're vacationing.

The bottom line is, if you have a building method that has a \$60-per-year total—total—annual utility bill, it's going to be in demand all over the world. It's going to be in demand for money reasons, for security reasons, for environmental reasons ... there are so many ways in which what we're doing is in demand now.

What's next on the horizon?

We're going to retrofit an architectural school in Bergen, Norway. It's a seven-story concrete green silo building that the school has taken over, and they want to make a big statement about retrofitting it. And we're looking at doing something for the orphans in Africa—all the kids orphaned in Darfur. They want to build a lot of orphanages there that are sustainable, for obvious reasons.

Another project I'm really interested in is going to the base camp of Everest and taking all the junk that they're throwing away up there and making semi-permanent lodging out of it. They have a tent city up there of around 2,000 people, and they have stacks of frozen shit this high [holds his hand up to his neck] that they blast with a machine gun—and then it goes down, and then they stack it up again. We have ways to fry it in the sun. So we're looking at doing that, because that'll be an expression of this stuff taken to the extreme. And if we take it to the extreme, then people may look at it for our cities, which are dying. So we have a lot of things cooking. ✨

To learn more, visit earthship.net. See the video of this interview at hightimes.com/earthship.

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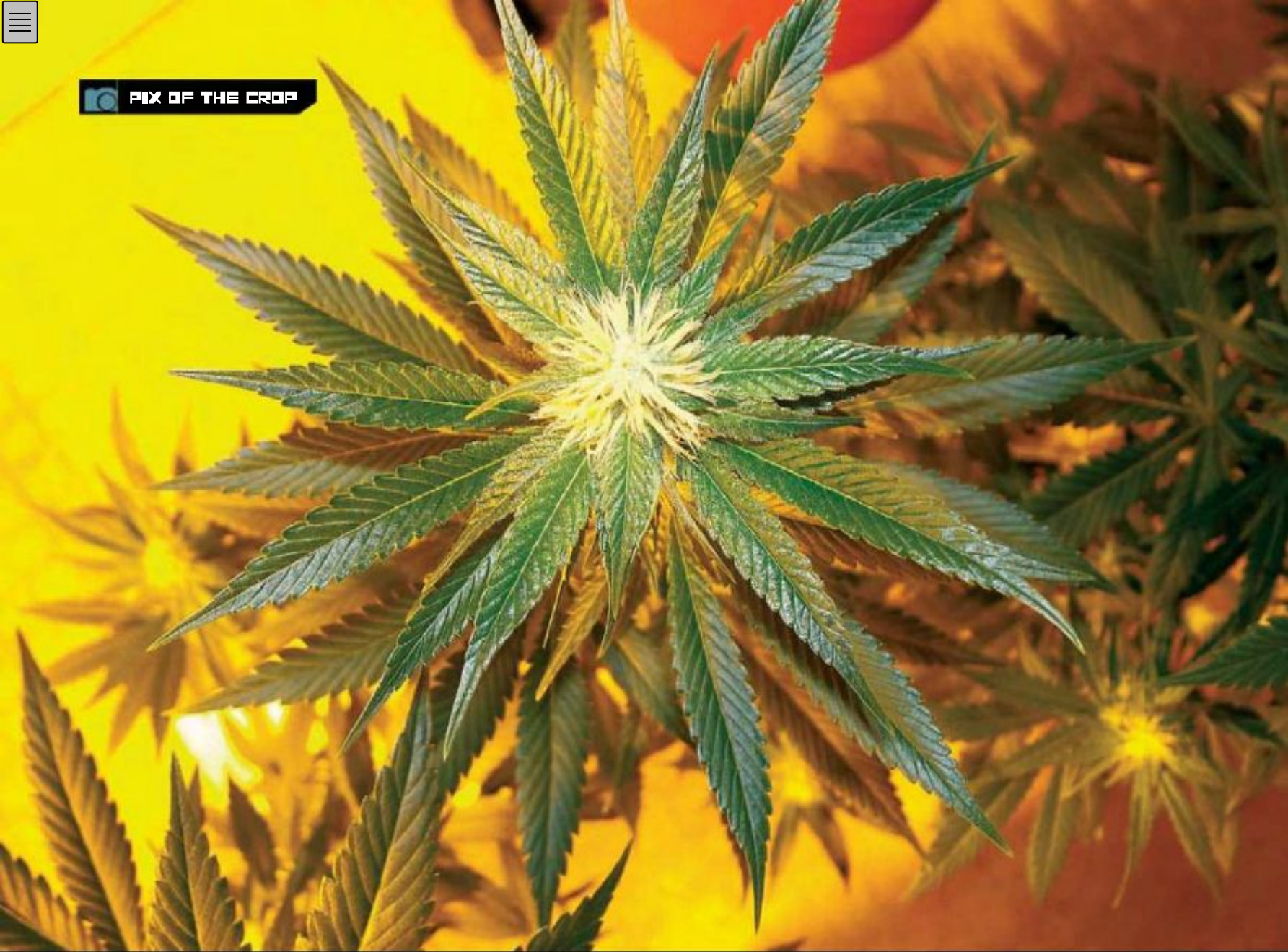
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PIX OF THE CROP



THE RISING

This is a medical grow of Master Kush, indoor hydro, rock-wool. They're four weeks into flowering. It took a lot of shots with different lighting to get this pic. Thought you might like to take a look. Thanks!
—Sherlock Holmes

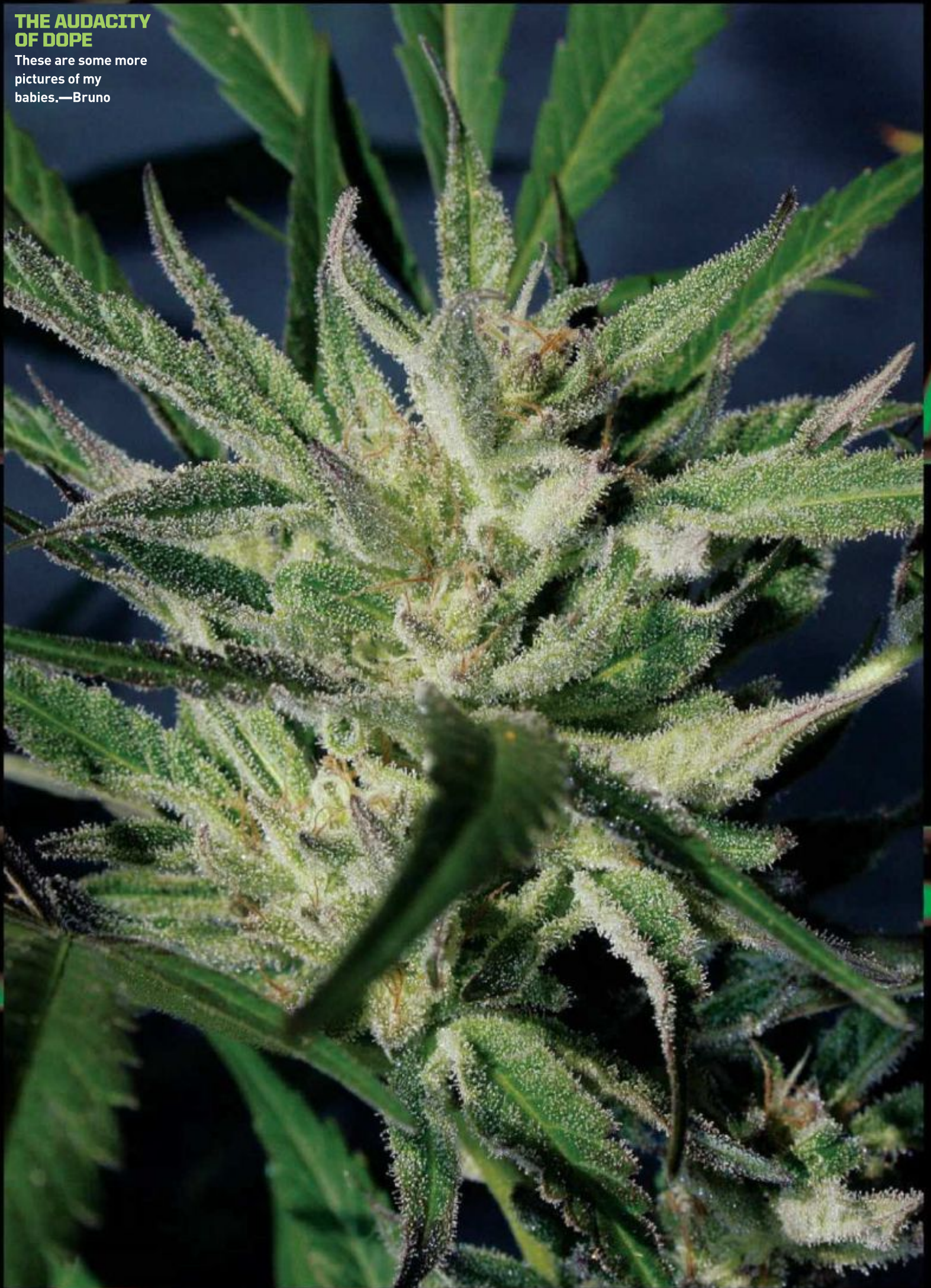
MAHALO

I live out in Hawaii and here are a couple of pics of some bud I've gotten out here. The first one is an unknown Hawaiian strain. The second one is Sweet Island Skunk.—HPU'S FINEST



THE AUDACITY OF DOPE

These are some more pictures of my babies.—Bruno



A