

HOW TO GROW LEGAL POT

HIGH TIMES

HIGH TIMES

FEB 409

11TH
ANNUAL
HYDRO
REPORT

NEW HOT
STRAIN
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WATERWORKS!

Greetings, amigos! Welcome to our 11th Annual Hydro Report. As you already know, hydroponic growing is now one of the largest and most popular trends to hit the indoor-cultivation scene in North America. You can find hydro systems anywhere and everywhere, from closets to warehouses, from commercial ops to plain old-fashioned home hobbyists tinkering around.

But did you know that hydroponics actually dates back over 2,000 years?

Theophrastus, the ancient Greek botanist and successor of Aristotle at the Lyceum, undertook various hydroponic experiments around 300 BC. But it wasn't until well over a millennium later that the first published work on growing terrestrial plants without soil came out. That book—*Sylva Sylvarum* by Sir Francis Bacon, published in 1627—launched hydroponics into the mainstream, making it a popular research technique.

In 1699, John Woodward, experimenting with spearmint, found that plants raised in less-than-pure water grew *better* than plants raised in distilled water. This paved the way for hydro as we know it, with the term “nutrient solution” being used frequently in conjunction with the new cultivation technique. Over a hundred years later, around 1842, a list of nine elements believed to be essential to plant growth had finally been formulated, resulting in the development of sound techniques for soilless cultivation. The growth of terrestrial plants without soil in mineral nutrient solutions was then termed “solution culture.”

Today, hydroponics—or “water culture,” as it is now commonly known—has proven to many cannabis cultivators that *water does work!* With its name derived from Greek origins—*hydro* meaning “water” and *ponos* meaning “labor”—the literal intention of a “labor with water” has translated easily to English and beyond, as growing hydro is nothing short of a labor of love for those who endure its wet undertakings.

Although hydro grow systems are known to be slightly more complicated, they are no longer solely for the advanced grower. Hydroponic systems come in all shapes and sizes, a few of which are covered in this year's report. And while the techniques may vary from system to system, the ultimate strategy has remained the same as well as the end goal: to produce those dense, super-potent nuggets of heady goodness.

This year we tried to change it up a bit for readers, giving a variety of hydro-related stories, profiles and information. And, I'm sad to say, this year will mark the first time in three years that no *grow-a-tree* poetry will adorn February's Page Six. Oh well, maybe next year!

Until then, keep the water workin' and stay well.

Ciao,

Nico Escondido

Nico Escondido
Cultivation Editor

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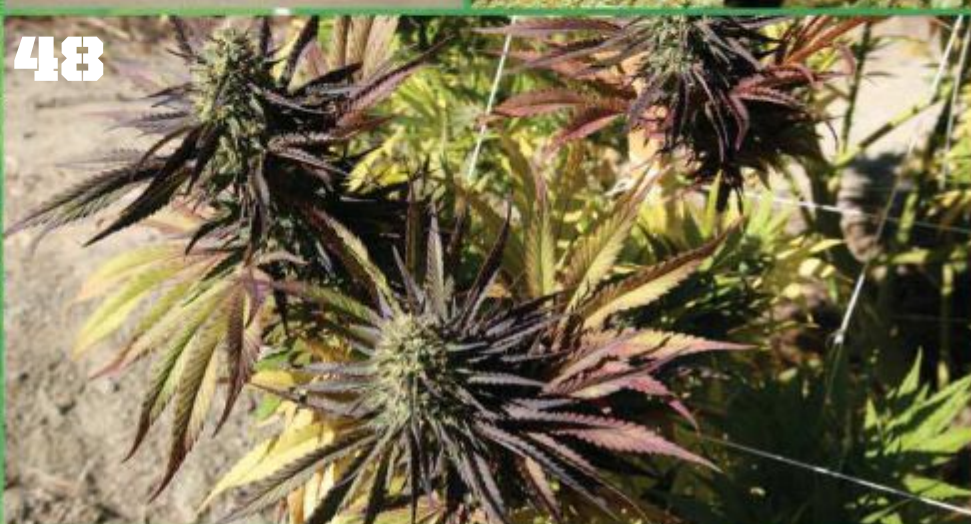
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COVER: FREEBIE STRAIN: SOUR GRAPES
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ROCKIN' IT

I wanted to remind you guys that HIGH TIMES is the finest magazine by far! I love your articles and all your breath-taking pictures that seem to pop out of the magazine at me. I smoke weed, so I really appreciate your magazine a lot. It's not like HIGH TIMES is just some magazine that a bunch of stoners threw together after a long session; it's very articulate and down-right awesome. I hope to one day become an intern at HIGH TIMES and eventually have my dream job there. I just hope you guys don't drug-test!

Alisha T.

IS THERE AN APP FOR THAT?

Hello from Arkansas. I'm a 25-year smoking veteran and a 10-time Cannabis Cup veteran. Without giving away my age, I am also a tech junkie. I have noticed that I'm still waiting for my HIGH TIMES iPhone application for my front page. I already have four different pot leaves from different apps on my page, but I spend more time on hightimes.com, so I need an app to go straight to your site. See you at the Cup!

Sent from my iPhone,
Mr. Brown

RASTAFARI, SAYS I

As it is written in our Constitution, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of a religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" Based on this statement alone, if you make marijuana part or all of your religion and can truly profess it to be so, then there can be no law prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Michael W.

HEART OF GLASS

Thumbin' through the Internet, I came across the cover picture for the March '09 HT. The pipe on the cover struck me as beautiful. I was wondering if you would be able to tell me where I can get that exact one. I'm bored off my ass in Iraq and definitely would like something like that to smoke out of when I get done with this damn deployment next month.

Kris

That pipe was created by Steve Bates. Unfortunately, it was won in a raffle at the recent World Stoner Games in Toronto. When you're back in the States, call us. We'll hook you up with a cool artist.

OVERGROW THE GOVERNMENT: THE SEQUEL

I live in a suburb of Cleveland, OH. I love marijuana more than anything in this world, and I still don't understand why it's illegal. But I just had an idea that I'm sure many other people have probably already had: I was thinking that if every



stoner in the US saved up their seeds for a year and then went into the woods and planted them all over the place, how could they (meaning the government) be able to stop it? So I was wondering if you guys would help me spread the word on doing this. Thanks!

Steve O.

HYDRO TIP

What's up? I'm a hardcore fan of your magazine and the plant we all love, so when I was doing a little Christmas shopping and

found out that you can buy a small hydro system from Linens 'n' Things called the Power Plant (it costs \$39.99 and goes well in small places), I thought your readers might be interested.

Chao

REEFER MADNESS

Hey, can you guys put up on your website or print in the next issue a link to a story that you published several years ago? I believe it was in a Halloween or October edition, and it was about a brownie nightmare! I think it was hilarious because of the brownie panic that people sometimes get! I want to share it with some friends on my Facebook page, but I can't find the article on your website. Please, please, please!

Lucy

Ah yes, the story of the cop who ate pot brownies and called 911. A true classic.
chrysb.fliggo.com/video/iTiG77hT

THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE

Where I can buy HIGH TIMES in Lithuania?

Ernest

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Check out <http://hightimes.com/digitaledition> for more details.

FUCKIN' INCREDIBLE IS RIGHT

I just watched your "Best Strains of 2008 video" on YouTube, and only occasionally does a bud I smoke even resemble any of those...but never the "Fucking Incredible."

Before I forget again, I know you have the best bomb-dank-crystally-stanky potent-psychedelic bud ever given to mankind. Enjoy... I'm jealous...

Blinky

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New York City's outlaw skateboard race gets underway with hundreds of boarders wheeling hard.



After the race, random celebrations broke out.



BOMBIN' DOWN BROADWAY

It's one of the most dangerous contests in New York City, and it's called the "Broadway Bomb." Long considered one of the premier underground skateboarding races in the world, the Bomb starts in Harlem at 116th Street and ends eight and a half miles later at the statue of the bull on Wall Street.

One hundred and forty-five intersections, congested with some of the most aggressive drivers in the world, lay between the racers and their goal. If you wish to compete, there are a few simple things to remember: Never get between a taxi and his fare; buses are the safest type of traffic; the police can't arrest everyone; and stopping is *never* an option.

This year's race went down on Saturday, October 10, and for 30 glorious minutes, skateboarders shut down Manhattan's main artery. Pedestrians, drivers, cabbies and even the police watched in awe as riders tore down Broadway on their way to the bull. Despite the race's semi-legal status, no arrests were made, and the only casualties were a few boards that found their way under car tires.

Winner Mark Schaperow finished with a time of 26 minutes, 40 seconds. That's roughly half the time it would take to make the same journey in a subway—proving once again that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, a set of wheels and a brazen disregard for personal well-being. —Tetsuhiko Endo



Mark Schaperow smoked the competition.

GUILLERMO DIAZ, CHAMELEON

He can be anybody—a thug, a transvestite, a stoner dude or a really, really bad guy. He's that elusive breed known as a "character actor" who can slip expertly in and out of other people's skins.

Everybody remembers Guillermo Diaz from *Half Baked*, in which he and Dave Chappelle ineptly try to move some stolen pot. And *Weeds* watchers know him as a quirky Mexican drug dealer. Now he's starring as an evildoer opposite Bruce Willis and Tracy Morgan in the upcoming Kevin Smith film *A Couple of Dicks*, which opens February 26.

Diaz is a New York City native who recalls: "Growing up, I got picked on a lot—I got mugged in my own high school. So it's kind of funny that I play these thugs." He laughs slyly. "I get to do things I never could do."

These days, Guillermo is a veteran actor who has done a number of terrific turns in films like *Chelsea Walls*, *Party Girl* and *Dirty Love*, and he obviously loves playing oddballs of all sorts. Because *Half Baked* has attained stoner cult-classic status, the pot community often tabs him as a kindred spirit—and they're not far off the mark. But Guillermo says he didn't smoke anything until he reached his twenties. "It wasn't for me," he says. "I didn't want to do it and I didn't respond to peer pressure. But as an adult, I tried it. I could never act while high, but I do use it creatively—especially to write."

He freely admits that he upped his usage while doing *Half Baked*: "With Chappelle—*whoa!*—that's when I *really* started."

There was never any pot smoking on the set, he adds, but later—uh, that was a different story. "We were in Dave's room smoking up every night," he recalls. "Esther Rolle, the actress who used to be on *Good Times*—she's dead now—was in the room next-door and kept complaining to the front desk that she smelled pot everywhere. Is it too late to say, 'Sorry, Esther'?"

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Activists go to work reseed-
ing the DEA's lawn.



David Bronner gets cuffed along with five others.

HEMP LAWN DOCTORS

On October 13, activists and farmers attempted to plant industrial-hemp seeds on the lawn of the DEA headquarters in Arlington, VA. Their goal was to bring the potential for legal hemp farming to the attention of the Obama administration, as well as to challenge—and ultimately eliminate—the DEA's current authority over hemp in America.

North Dakota farmer Wayne Hauge, Vermont farmer Will Allen, Hemp Industries Association (HIA) president Steve Levine, Dr. Bronner's president David Bronner, Vote Hemp's Adam Eidinger, and Isaac Nichelson of Livvy Hemp Clothing were arrested while digging up the DEA's lawn in order to sow industrial-hemp seed imported from Canada. The six protesters used ceremonial chrome shovels engraved with the words "Hemp Planting Oct. 2009—DEA Headquarters—American Farmers Shall Grow Hemp Again! Reefer Madness Will Be Buried!" They were soon arrested and hauled off to the Arlington County jail.

After the event, Steve Levine said, "The police didn't seem concerned that we were planting hemp. They seemed more concerned with us tearing up the lawn." The charges reflected that concern: trespassing and destruction of public property. The six paid minor fines. (Nice piece of activism, everyone. However, some hemp activists were disappointed that the "hemp seed imported from Canada" was actually nothing more than sterile, toasted hemp seed used for food products.)

Industrial hemp is a non-psychoactive plant with a THC level below 0.3 percent. It is farmed throughout Canada, Europe and Asia, but not a single US farmer can legally grow this versatile crop—used for food, clothing, body care, paper, building materials, auto paneling and more—even though several states have passed laws to permit such farming. The DEA, despite its status as a law-enforcement agency, is the only government entity authorized to issue permits to hemp farmers who seek to grow what is indisputably an agricultural crop. Throughout its 36-year history, the DEA has issued exactly one.

CARTEL IS THE TRUTH!

Maybe the times really *are* a-changing. When law enforcement concedes something that the cannabis community has been saying for years—that the Mexican drug cartels are not involved in growing pot in California, Utah, Oregon or anywhere else in the US—maybe we're making some progress.

DEA Special Agent Gordon Taylor, stationed in Sacramento, recently said that he has "not seen any direct link" between pot growers in California

and the notoriously violent Mexican drug cartels based in cities like Tijuana and Juarez. He quickly added: "That doesn't mean the link isn't there. We just haven't seen it to date."

According to Taylor, "there is no question that drug-trafficking organizations from Mexico, not necessarily tied to a cartel, are bringing up people, crossing into the United States illegally, and using them to grow marijuana in California."

Translation: Growers with Spanish names are growing pot in California in order to make money. Some of these people are probably illegal aliens.



EMS means "Excellent Marijuana Smoking."



CALL 911!

This is one ambulance where it's a good idea not to play with the siren. That's because there are some very important patients inside—and while they're in no way critical, their condition is "guarded."

Some growers obviously believe that if you're gonna call it "medical marijuana," you may as well have your garden situated in a thematically correct environment. This former EMS wagon was bought off an auction lot, then used as a salesmobile for a dude who traveled across the Northern Plains hawking Xado engine products. But it was obviously meant for greater things, and now it occupies a parking space in the Colorado wilderness, where it's been outfitted with true "life support" equipment: a General Hydroponics Aero Flo 2/30 system, home to a host of AK-47 crosses. The attending physician—a medical-marijuana patient who suffers from myasthenia gravis, a severe muscle-weakening disease—believes that AK hybrids are the most effective strains for treating pain.

Presently, all of the plants are in intensive care, but the patients are expected to leave the hospital in perfect health.

TOKE UP AND SOAP UP!



Everything we put on our skin is absorbed into the body in less than 40 seconds. You might want to check your soap dish: Many potentially dangerous additives that have been outlawed in the European Union because of health concerns are still found in cosmetics, soaps, shaving gels and body washes sold in the US. Chemical-laden body washes and artificially scented lotions might just be skinning you alive!

Instead of that crap, look for natural, hemp-based body-care products like the new line of soaps and lotions from the Rad Soap Company.

Rad Soap seems to be targeting the stoner audience, because their new line is called the Toke Collection, and it features a natural body lotion, body wash and body bar. Take Toke to the tub and experience the ultimate in hot-boxing for your body and aromatherapy for your mind. Toke uses unrefined hemp-seed oil, which is anti-inflammatory and anti-aging, helps heal skin lesions, contains antioxidants and has moisture-balancing properties to repair dry skin. It also prevents nuclear war. Rejuvenate and moisturize your skin with some Toke today!

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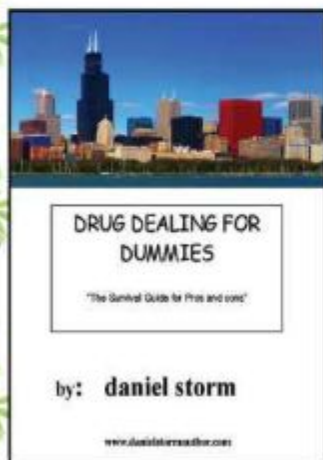


DRUGS IN THE DUGOUT

At the end of this past baseball season, the Minnesota Twins and the Detroit Tigers were tied and forced to play an extra game to determine who would face the New York Yankees in the first round of playoffs. The Twins won and immediately flew to New York City, finally getting to bed after 4 a.m. They tried to grab a few hours of shut-eye before the start of Game 1, scheduled for 6 p.m. that evening. The Twins, understandably fatigued, ultimately lost 7-2.

So what a joy it must have been for the players to see Major League Baseball representatives in the locker rooms after the game collecting urine samples to be checked for stimulants. Yeah, no one should have an unfair advantage, even though it would seem that the Yankees did, enjoying four days of rest prior to the game.

And while we're on the subject of "unfair advantage," don't religious players who point up in the air at God when they cross home plate have an unfair advantage by demonstrating the fact that their deeds are assisted by a supernatural force?



BUD-SELLERS' BIBLE

So you're thinking of getting a second job—but the one you're considering doesn't require a Social Security number, W-2 forms, new clothes or even a background check. Before you start your first day of work, though, you might want to read the company manual.

What? No company manual? Then read *Drug Dealing for Dummies* by Daniel Storm: It provides a common-sense approach to avoiding the prying eyes and ears of state and federal agents. Take a guided tour of the "dark side" associated with crime and those sworn to uphold the law. *Drug Dealing for Dummies* is also required reading for everyone with concerns about the seemingly unlimited resources available to law-enforcement agents.

Available for \$39.95 at danielstormauthor.com.

THIS MONTH IN SHOWBUZZ

LOSS OF A LEGEND

This past October, Dickie Peterson—founder and frontman of the legendary rock band Blue Cheer—passed away after a battle with cancer at the age of 61. Blue Cheer is considered by many to be the first American heavy-metal band. A huge fan of *HIGH TIMES* and a proud pothead, Dickie attributed much of his creativity to weed. In March 2008, Blue Cheer headlined the Doobie Awards at SXSW in Austin, taking home two trophies: Pot Song of the Year ("Rollin' Dem Bones") and the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. Rock in peace, Dickie. Check out hightimes.com/tags/blue_cheer

RIP Dickie Peterson.



SMITH AND RESIN

Director Kevin Smith (*Clerks*, *Dogma*, *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*) credits Seth Rogen for helping him pull out of a creative slump. How? Rogen got him to start smoking weed regularly. Smith says he now lights



Kevin's in heaven!

up three times a day. While working on post-production for *A Pair of Dicks* (opening February 26), he told the world: "I know you're supposed to tell kids not to do drugs, but, kids, do it! Do weed! Don't do the other stuff, but weed is good. What you want to do is what I did—build a movie empire and, at age 38, smoke it all away."

DEA PLAYS DOCTOR

Has the DEA had a hand in editing scripts for Fox's hit doctor show *House*? In the series' first years, the brilliant but bastardly Dr. House (played by British actor Hugh Laurie) used Vicodin liberally to ease the pain of his muscle disease. In subsequent episodes, he also demonstrated an affinity for "medical" pot. House obviously liked getting high—until recently.

Apparently, the DEA has been writing letters to the network for years complaining of House's "flagrant use and abuse of narcotics without consequence." (Better to suffer and be miserable.)

So did Fox cave to the pressure? Blogging viewers have been wondering. Suddenly, Vicodin began making House see dead people. Next, he detoxed. Now, he no longer uses Vicodin—he just limps around and doesn't talk about the pain anymore.

Laurie gets *House* cleaning.



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The Prez says the
Feds won't mess
with your meds.

OBAMA OK WITH MED MJ

The light at the end the tunnel just got a little brighter. In mid-October, the Obama administration announced new Justice Department guidelines under which the Feds will no longer seek to arrest medical-marijuana users or their suppliers. A memo sent to the DEA, FBI and federal prosecutors in the 14 states that allow the use of medical marijuana proclaims that federal manpower will no longer be used to prosecute those who are in compliance with state and local laws.

The news was met with guarded optimism in the cannabis community, especially given the raids on med-pot dispensaries in Southern California earlier this year, in which the DEA either took an active role or offered assistance. The Obama administration also made it clear that the Feds will still prosecute those who use medical marijuana as a cover for other illegal activities: The memo instructs prosecutors to pursue marijuana cases that involve violence, the illegal use of firearms, selling pot to minors, money laundering or other crimes.

One last thing to keep in mind: The memo doesn't *exclude* the possibility that the federal government could prosecute someone whose activities are allowed under state law. Instead, it states merely that "it will not be a *priority* to prosecute patients with serious illnesses or their caregivers" (emphasis added)—because apparently you still might want to leave that option open for the future.

AMERICANS GRAVITATE TO GANJA

The results—some rather encouraging—are now in from the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), conducted annually by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

In 2008, approximately 20.1 million Americans (8 percent of the total US population) reported using illegal drugs in the previous month, the same percentage as in 2007. No matter how the Feds spin it, overall drug use did not decline in the previous year whatsoever. Not surprisingly, cannabis was the most common illicit drug, used by 15.2 million Americans in the previous month. This means that approximately one out of every 15 people that the average person is acquainted with, or passes on the street, smokes pot. Again, these are the stats for regular users; the number of pot smokers is even higher when those who've partaken at least once in the previous six months or one year are taken into account.

These 2008 numbers represent a slight increase over the number of regular marijuana users in the 2007 survey (5.8 percent), perhaps signaling that those who choose to intoxicate are drifting more toward the far more benign (and usually beneficial) marijuana instead of dangerous drugs like meth and pharmaceuticals.

The inclusion of minors in the NSDUH should not be ignored, as the number of pot users ages 12 to 17 did not change from 2007 to 2008 (6.7 percent in both years). This means the percentage of teens using pot is actually slightly *higher* than the



Approximately one out of every 15 people that the average person is acquainted with, or passes on the street, smokes pot.

general population (the aforementioned 6.1 percent of all Americans).

Alcohol remains our "drug of choice," with more than half the population describing themselves as current users in 2008, although this was a drop from the previous year (51.1 percent in the 2007 survey). Minors use alcohol regularly too, but not at a higher rate than the population as a whole.

In response to the NSDUH, the September 2009 press release issued by the Office of National Drug Control Policy touts the efforts of the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, which was created by the Republican-controlled Congress back in 1998. Yet despite "the nation's most visible effort to prevent and reduce teen drug use," the rate of illegal drug use among teens only decreased a whopping 0.2 percent (from 9.5 percent in 2007 to 9.3 in 2008).

One of the most positive findings in the NSDUH—one that pot supporters and hardened Drug Warriors can agree upon—is a substantial decrease in meth use, down by over half in just a three-year span: from 731,000 reported users in 2006 to 314,000 in '08. Cocaine use also dropped, from 2.1 million regular users in 2007 to 1.9 million in 2008. Hallucinogens, including LSD and Ecstasy, were used regularly by just over a million people in 2008, closely mirroring the '07 figures. And illicit prescription-drug use is likewise on the decline, from 6.9 million Americans in 2007 to 6.2 million in '08 (representing 2.5 percent of the population).

Coupled with the rise in pot use, it seems that the American drug-taking public is finally getting its act together.—Mark Miller



NEVER LET 'EM SEE YOU SWEAT!

On July 1, 2003, the US Patent Office issued a patent to Dr. Stuart Mark Berlin for the diagnostic use of sweat produced by the apocrine glands, present in the armpit and groin at the root of

every hair shaft. The patent was granted on the basis of data documenting that the evolutionary function of the apocrine gland is to concentrate biomarkers from the blood into apocrine sweat during various physiologically abnormal states. These concentrated biomarkers in apocrine sweat break down into volatile components with little heat and bacterial action.

What does this mean for marijuana users? Simply that a new kind of test will soon be aimed at them. Blood tests, which can also establish one's level of marijuana intoxication, are not only invasive but impractical to perform in the field; they are also a violation of individual rights. On the other hand, urine tests—which are also somewhat impractical in the field—do not detect THC itself but rather the carboxy metabolite that it produces, which is not psychoactive and remains present in the urine for long periods of time. Thus, while a positive urine test demonstrates that marijuana has been used in the recent past, it does not give any information as to the current level of intoxication.

Apocrine sweat, on the other hand, will concentrate THC to *five times* its current blood level during an intoxicated state (as opposed to the eccrine sweat produced by the sweat glands on the rest of the body, which does not concentrate THC—in fact, it usually has only a small fraction of the THC level found in the blood.) This natural concentrating function by the apocrine gland means that a non-invasive test for acute marijuana intoxication—one that will give immediate results in a field setting by testing the thin film of sweat in a person's armpit—can now be made.

Curiously, the technology for this test is the same as that used for urine-based pregnancy tests. Therefore, any company that makes such tests can immediately make apocrine-sweat tests for THC as well (plus the patent for apocrine-sweat testing is available for immediate licensing). In fact, marijuana users themselves might benefit from such a test, in order to determine when it's safe to drive, operate machinery or return to work. However, an even bigger segment of the market will undoubtedly be parents, employers and law enforcement.

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THE ULTIMAT

The federal government maintains that marijuana has no medical value. Try telling that to a burn survivor.

Story & photos by Dan Skye

We use words like *fate*, *destiny* and *karma* to define our life experience, the underlying subtext being that our circumstances have been predetermined by our actions. Or, more simply put: We get what we deserve.

They're silly concepts, especially to burn survivors. More often than not, "destiny" occurs in an instant, a horrific collision of random circumstances—a spark, materials for combustion, and the presence of a human being. Who among us deserves such a fate?

Fire isn't like cancer. A white-blood-cell versus red-blood-cell count is nothing but an abstraction for most of us; we don't have an understanding of chemotherapy treatments unless we undergo them. But we can all relate to fire. We've all had minor experiences of being burned, and we understand the pain that it inflicts. If we encounter an individual ravaged by fire, we *get* it—we understand the horror. But it shocks us on a visceral level, and so we recoil.

Still, as many burn survivors have testified, fire is the easy part. It's the recovery that's the real test: weeks of immobility, multiple surgeries, and the severe psychological toll as you come to terms with your inability to function as you once did. In addition to the depression and anxiety brought on by disfigurement, burn survivors also cope with unimaginable varieties of torment: sudden sharp, stabbing pains that result from damaged or destroyed nerve endings, throbbing muscle spasms, and acute bouts of itching that cannot be relieved.

Naturally, pharmaceutical companies market an array of medications to combat anxiety, plus every other condition that arises from such injuries. Consequently, many burn survivors deal with addiction, too.

Take Matthew Bassion of Nuevo, CA, who suffered burns over 60 percent of his body (as well as a broken pelvis, femur and fibula) when he was T-boned on his motorcycle. He fought off his addictions by using pot. "I definitely feel like a recovering addict," he says now. "They had me on morphine and Dilaudid—you can't function on those. I definitely reached a point where I wanted them more and more, but I also knew I wanted to kick them. Cannabis helped me get off that junk. It definitely helps me with anxiety from the acci-

San Diego activist Rudy Reyes.



Jeremie Reese with his methadone prescription.



Pharmaceuticals vs. pot: Which would you choose?



A burn survivor self-medicates.

dent, but really, I use it mostly as a pain reliever."

Tom McKay lays it on the line: "I wouldn't be here without it," he says of cannabis. Over 50 percent of his body was burned in a fuel-truck fire. When Tom was released from the hospital, he'd lost over 50 pounds. Massive medication had sapped his appetite. His doctors recommended a diet of 5,000 calories per day, but Tom could barely look at food until he acquired a medical recommendation for pot. He slowly began to rebuild his body, and now says he hasn't taken a pill in four years: "I smoke a bowl and, 10 minutes later, I'm ready to eat!" he reports. "Cannabis helps you look at things differently, to see the lighter side, which helped with my recovery, too."

Childhood burns are especially devastating—as the body grows, the scar tissue stretches and requires surgery. Albert Santiago was

scalded in a bathtub accident when he was 18 months old. "I stopped taking all those prescriptions once I started smoking at 15. Now it's only green for me," he says. "A lot of people don't understand my life. It really helps me—it's a good thing, and it will really help if people open their eyes and stop judging people."

For former movie stuntwoman Alisa Christenson, whose memoir *Gimp* (iUniverse) chronicles her ordeal, pot was definitely not on her agenda for pain management—at first. "I was a wine-and-cigarette girl," she laughs. "I never smoked pot prior to my accident."

Ironically, Alisa's injuries weren't stunt-related: In a freak camping accident, a spark ignited and melted her sleeping bag—with her in it. Later, during one of her surgeries, she suffered a stroke. "For two years, I tried to live with-

E ADVOCATES



Albert Santiago says, "It's only green for me."

Matthew Bassion says pot helped him kick pills.

Glenn Ford's recovery is a "journey."

Former stuntwoman Alisa Christenson, author of *Gimp*.

Scarred hands roll up a joint.

out pain meds, be the tough guy, work out, eat right," she says now. "But the pain became chronic and ended up doing more damage. Your brain slowly becomes used to pain, and it becomes chronic. Weed does not stop my pain, but I use it instead of Valium, Xanax or the myriad of other mood-altering drugs available.

"My burns are one issue, the stroke another," Alisa continues. "Brain damage caused my anxiety disorder, and weed is the best drug I've found to calm my nerves—I lighten up, laugh even. The effects of one puff are over in an hour, so it's much better than Valium, which lasts four to five hours and can knock me to sleep."

Five years ago, at age 17, Jeremy Reese, a self-described adrenaline junkie, decided to climb an electrical tower back home in Winston-Salem, NC, with a couple of buddies. "Long

story short, I got hit with 335,000 volts and fell 58 feet," he recalls. His life became an endless treadmill of high-potency painkillers: OxyCotin, Dilaudid, Fentanyl and morphine were all prescribed liberally to combat the pain of nerve damage. In fact, Jeremy currently holds a prescription for methadone, which has played havoc with his appetite and digestion. However, his life changed when he tried marijuana. "I couldn't eat—I could take a handful of pills and still be hurtin'," he recalls. "But if I smoked one joint, I'd be fine."

Jeremy's experience motivated him to become an activist in his home state, and San Diego's Rudy Reyes has been cheering him on. Rudy is a powerful, relentless activist (see "Siege on SoCal," HT Dec. '09) who survived the local wildfires of 2003 after experiencing terrible

burns over 65 percent of his body. Although San Diego County has been stridently opposed to medical marijuana, Rudy has carried on the fight vigorously. A force in local politics, whether he's running for various elective offices himself or calling out officeholders who waffle on the issue, Rudy's well aware that his appearance confers an instant credibility on him. When it comes to the availability and benefits of medical marijuana, "who would dare to argue with me?" he observes. "Who would dare be that uncompassionate?"

Rudy's ultimate goal is to be elected to Congress. "It's not right that someone who goes to another state can be arrested for using their medicine," he says. "It needs to be accepted. Congress is the only place where this change can be made, so I'm pushing it—I want medical marijuana to be available for everyone."

Burn survivors are free to speak out on the benefits of marijuana, but a nurse working in a major urban hospital's burn unit must do so anonymously if she wants to keep her job. Says one such nurse: "We medicate victims when they come in with morphine or Fentanyl or Vicodin, and it's very effective at first. But a patient can be in our unit for months, and they build up a toler-

'Nothing man makes is good for medication. But if God made it, how bad can it be?'

ance. So they can be in severe pain. Plus the anxiety—they're stuck in this room, and their whole life has changed. Wouldn't it be better to allow them to use a substance that

eases their anxiety and makes them comfortable? Certainly, for us—the nurses—we can give much better care to a patient who is pain-free and relaxed. How awesome would that be?"

Ultimately, it's a quality-of-life issue. Burn survivor Glenn Ford, the victim of a fire in a scrap-metal yard, has managed to retain his remarkably cheerful demeanor despite the hand he was dealt—and he cites cannabis as a major factor.

"I never accepted pills," he says. "Nothing man makes is good for medication. But if God made it, how bad can it be? Marijuana helped me mellow out, eat more, stay away from the negative stuff, keep a smile on my face."

"I'm here for a purpose—I got to do everything I can to get back to where I was," Glenn adds. "It's a journey that I'm on. Marijuana helped me move forward." 🌿

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.

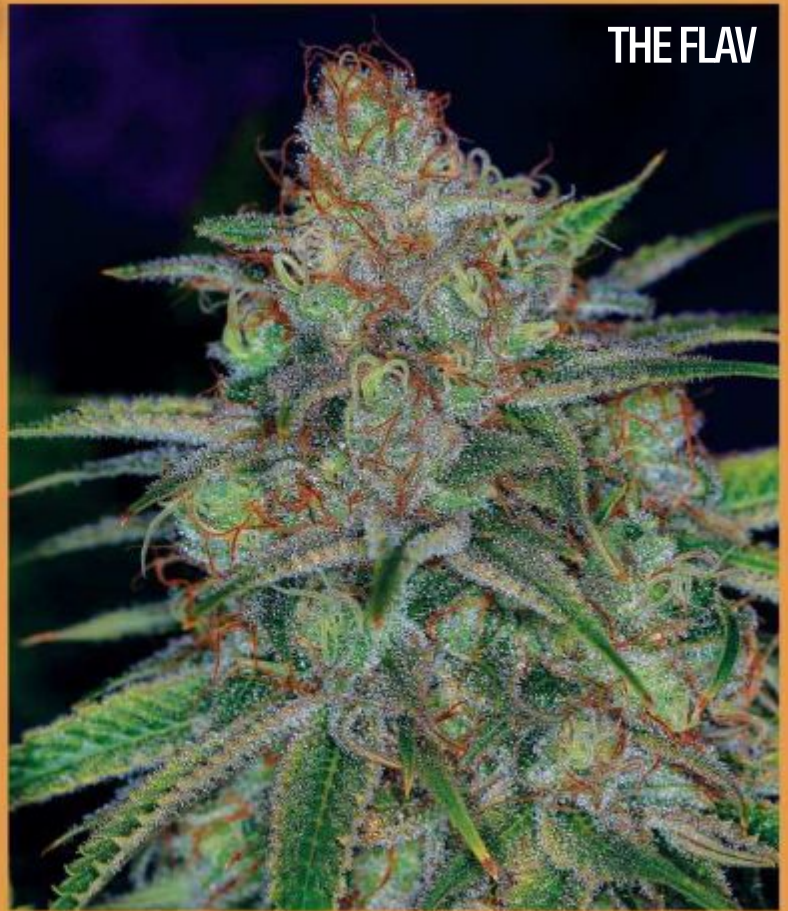
CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$342** (last month: \$367; YTD: \$355)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$440** (\$441, \$441)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$253** (\$301, \$277)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$78** (\$101, \$90)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ARIZONA	Phoenix	God Haze	\$420
		Granddaddy Purps	\$450
CALIFORNIA	Arcata	Trainwreck	\$300
	San Diego	Pineapple	\$280
FLORIDA	Tallahassee	Blueberry	\$400
GEORGIA	Marietta	Sour Diesel	\$450
INDIANA	Warsaw	Hawaiian Kush	\$400
KANSAS	Topeka	OG Kush	\$440
		Mids	\$150
MARYLAND	Baltimore	Trainwreck	\$700
		Power Plant	\$425
MASSACHUSETTS	Worcester	Outdoor Haze	\$200
MINNESOTA	Hopkins	Beasters	\$280
		Kush	\$350
MONTANA	Butte	Blueberry	\$320
		Juicy Fruit	\$300
NEVADA	Las Vegas	Easy Ryder	\$400
NEW JERSEY	Atco	Hash Plant	\$350
	Belmar	Purple Trainwreck	\$400
	Indian Mills	Purple Kush	\$400
	New Brunswick	Jack Herer	\$375
	Tabernacle	Easy Ryder	\$400
NEW YORK	Belfast	Blueberry	\$700
	New York	Strawberry Cough	\$400
OHIO	Athens	Sour Purple Haze	\$400
		Blueberry	\$380
		Death Star	\$560
		Diesel	\$300
		Bubba Kush	\$560
OREGON	Bend	Jilly Bean	\$240
	Portland	Strawberry Cough	\$240
		Grapefruit	\$240
		Sensi Star	\$240
		Northern Lights	\$230
		White Widow	\$230
TENNESSEE	Chattanooga	Jack Herer	\$560
	Nashville	AK-47	\$520
		Mids	\$160
TEXAS	Austin	Schwag	\$60
	Dallas	Bull Rider	\$400
		Master Kush	\$400
VIRGINIA	Chesapeake	Kind Outdoor	\$400
	Roanoke	God Bud	\$320
INTERNATIONAL (prices in Canadian and US dollars and British pounds)			
CANADA	Winnipeg	Purple Kush	C\$250
		Jack Herer	C\$240
		Lemon Skunk	C\$240
ENGLAND	London	Pineapple Funk	£230
SOUTH AFRICA	Cape Town	The Kong	\$200

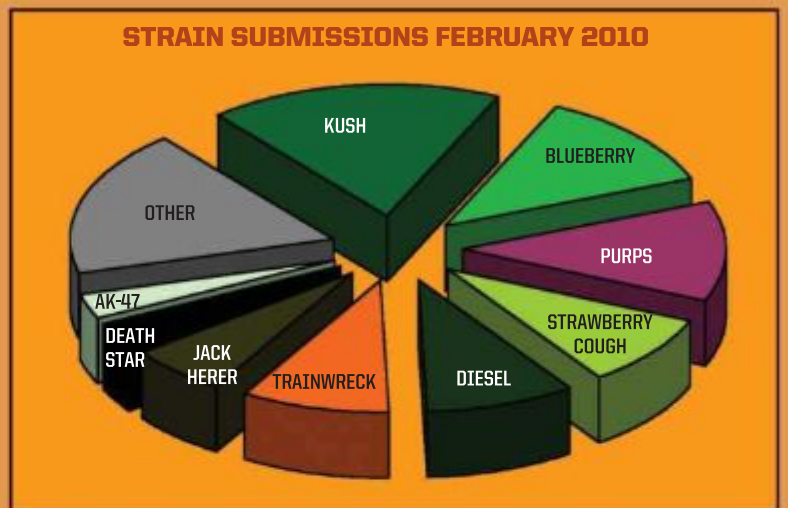


MARKET ANALYSIS

Once again, it's Kush in the top pot spot for the month. However, the coveted strain's average price dropped \$42 in February. Blueberry, Purps and Diesel are all two for two in terms of top-five finishes for 2010, while Strawberry Cough made the cut for the first time since March '09. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$400), Blueberry (\$450), Purps (\$413), Strawberry Cough (\$347) and Diesel (\$342).

INDEX WATCH: All indices finished below their previous month's average, and the Mids Index hit a 10-month low at \$253. Yet while the US Price, Mids and Schwag indices all dipped significantly (US Price, -\$25; Mids, -\$48; Schwag -\$23), the Kind Index essentially held steady at only \$1 below January's average.

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



Pineapple Funk - £230
London, ENGLAND
"Dripping with crystals and a flavour reeking of ripe pineapple, these ladies grew into huge fat buds! An amazing daytime smoke and beautiful high: truly tropical."

God Bud - \$320
Roanoke, VIRGINIA
"Very sticky, crystal-loaded buds. Two-toke smoke, couch-lock high."

Easy Ryder - \$400
Las Vegas, NEVADA
"Grown outdoors in the harsh Las Vegas summer heat. Colas and buds are very dense and hella frosty, with an oh-so-lovely pungent aroma! Best herb to hit Vegas in years!"

The Kong - \$200
Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA
"I heard about the Kong from Holy Smoke Seeds while visiting the UK recently. Now I finally smoked it, and oh my God—it totally blew me away!"



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LA power trio combines guitars with space dust.

NEBULA AND THE MUS

By John Payne

Photos by Aaron Giesel

Wars, wars, wars ... financial crises ... tsunamis! Swine flu! Friends, the time has come like no other to toss thy long hair and bang thy head. Do it righteously, do it now: Drop the needle on Nebula's *Heavy Psyche* album on the ever-smoking Teepee label and let the ride begin

The album's a heady nose-dive deep into the most classic hard-rock and psychedelic strains that you (or, more likely, your mom and dad) shook a caf-tan to back in the day, the short-hand version being: What if Blue Cheer, Hendrix, the Seeds and the Stooges mass-jammed with Sabbath, Deep Purple, Mud-honey and Roky Erickson in a swirling, maelstrom-like but hard-, *hard*-rocking psychedelia that didn't totally bite the bag with a lot of patchouli vagueness about chakras and tofu, yet did compel your inner lunatic to gaze hopefully into the stratosphere—and beyond

Nebula may have their ears tuned to outer space, but their feet? Right here on solid ground. When they released their first album on Teepee back in 1998, they called it *Let It Burn* (which, by the way, is being reissued in expanded form on vinyl later this year). That album was only the first in a series of psychedelia-aligned power-trio hard stuff by the band, which is the brainchild of guitarist Eddie Glass (who is joined in its current incarnation by drummer Rob Oswald and bassist-vocalist Tom Davies).

Nebula formed in 1997 in the great, glamorous showbiz cesspool that is Los Angeles, rising phoenix-like out of the smoldering ashes of the late, sort-of-great skate/garage/punk metallist Fu Manchu. Glass was in that band from '93 to '96, did their first three records, then realized his ideas were growing too big for the Fu to accommodate.

"The Fu Manchu *In Search Of...* record was the pinnacle of what we could have continued doing, with Hammond B3 organs and

Moog synthesizers and all this weird stuff," he says. "The drummer, Ruben Romano, and I started to bring in songs to rehearsal for Fu Manchu—and we wrote more songs, listening to records, writing more music. At the time, Fu Manchu was just sort of straightforward guitar, so it kinda got boring. So we turned it into Nebula."

While Glass dug the jammier side of the hardcore Fu Manchu sound, he wanted to push the entire thing outward, right on up to the stars. Nebula's recorded yield over the last 10 or so years, including the awe-inspiring *Atomic Ritual* (2003) and *Apollo* (2006) albums, has set the bar ever higher for a hard rock that does in fact expand the mind, but in a shrewdly exacting and heftily sucker-punching way. *Heavy Psyche's* mastery of this aesthetic most likely owes its success to Glass finally getting the most adept and sympathetic players he's ever had, as well as to the sheer number of years he's put in boiling down the essence of the band's sound.

"Every few years, we've changed bass players, drummers and everything, so it's the same name, but it's kind of changed the sound," he says. "It's the people you play with that make it sound different. This is the first record with both Rob and Tom on it. I was working on eight-track demo versions of the songs at home—just sketches—and then we worked off that. When we tried 'em out in the studio, it all came out naturally, really."

The album's a full plate of all-killer songs that impress with the huge number of ideas packed into each, like three- or four-minute mini-epics that bang the aforementioned head but don't, crucially, wear out the ear. The songs are tight, no-bullshit slices of psychically disorienting head rock that, at their best, explore the connected roots of the space-garage continuum, as in "Little Yellow Pill" and its jug-band blues intro, or the ethereal glis-



IC OF SATURN'S RINGS



Tom, Rob and Eddie pass the glass.

sando guitar auras of the Gong/Stepenwolf/Music Machine hybrid “The Other Side,” or the painterly use of guitar sounds that Glass incorporates into the opening “Pulse,” “Crown of Thorns” and “Lead Sky.”

Nebula’s punk-rock early days are most likely what separates their brand of ‘60s- and ‘70s-derived head rock from the snoozy, ectoplasmic messes of the Grateful Dead or dreadful jamband pinheads like Phish, String Cheese Incident and Leftover Salmon (and what’s with all the references to things that stink?). The point is that Nebula keep their shit short and sweet—wham-*bam*—then stomp boldly off to the next gnarly challenge. “Sometimes I extend the songs,” Glass admits, “but most of the time, I like ‘em short. I like songs, you know?”

licks one little dab at a time. The trick, he says, is not to do too much: “I add guitar tracks, but not all the way through like I used to do. I try to make it sparse, using different parts on the chorus or bridge or something.”

Heavy Psyche’s mind-melting guitar sounds emit primarily from Glass’s two trusty Gibson SG’s, run through a huge assortment of effects pedals and, more crucially, a variety of classic old amplifiers. “I usually play the same guitars,” he says, “although there’s a few tracks where I play a Fender Jazzmaster. But the main thing is, I change amps a *lot*. I record with a small Vox, or a Twin Reverb on some tracks, a Marshall 50-watt or Marshall 100-watt. And then all these pedals—I have a fuzz-wah, a fuzz-phase, a Fuzz Factory ... ”

Heavy Psyche seems to reference

Stooges, MC5. We started to listen to stuff like Gong and Amon Düül, and it’s like you start listening to things and trying to make music not as *abrasive*. You’re like, ‘Wow, how do I get that sound?’ Turns out it’s dynamics, that’s what it is—it’s *dynamic*.”

It’s also having an imagination for the possibilities of sound. On the gossamer-pastoral outro to *Heavy Psyche*’s “The Other Side,” behind Glass’s SG twining though a Twin Reverb amp with a phaser pedal, he mixed in the actual sound of Saturn’s rings, as captured by the space probe *Cassini*. “I got that from NASA,” he laughs. “It’s pretty cool. I was like, ‘Wow, man, that’s actually the sound of Saturn’s rings.’ Spooky!”

So while you’re gazing at the stars with the headphones on, banging your skull to Nebula against imaginary



‘It’s been a musician’s tool since the beginning of time,’ says Eddie Glass. ‘Every generation of musicians, from Django Reinhardt, jazz musicians, to reggae, to the Doors, punk rock—everybody smoked weed.’

The album’s got an urgent directness to it that sounds like the band is making stuff up on the spot—which isn’t exactly the case, but it may as well be. “Working with Tom and Rob was really great,” says Glass, “because over the years, we’ve gotten really tight with our instruments. It came together really good: We did most of the songs in one take to keep what it really sounds like live, the energy, the band sound. First take—that’s the one.”

After the band members did their basic tracks on bass, drums and maybe rhythm guitar, everybody left Glass alone in the studio to work his spectral magic. He augmented the tracks with a variety of vintage, old, crappy analog keyboards, plus the Moog, then applied his artful guitar

a virtual encyclopedia of hard-rock and psychedelic sounds without ever slavishly imitating any of them. That’s because when Glass was originally just another punk-rock kid frying in Southern California, his ears were always on the horizon.

“I grew up skateboarding and playing in garage bands and getting all excited and sweaty,” he recalls. “We were playing, like, Black Flag and Sex Pistols and the Clash. We got to write our own songs, just loud guitars and drums and kids having fun. And then we got more involved with buying records and getting seriously into music. In your high-school-punk teenage years, you grow up and discover Hendrix and Sabbath and Captain Beyond and 13th Floor Elevators,

galaxies far, far away in another time long, long ago, you may consider the option of enhancing the experience by bangin’ ye olde bong. Nebula did, and dig what *they* heard.

“It’s been a musician’s tool since the beginning of time,” says Glass. “Every generation of musicians, from Django Reinhardt, jazz musicians, to reggae, to the Doors, punk rock—*everybody* smoked weed.

“Speaking strictly as a musician, it’s cool: It helps you forget about problems and just concentrate on guitar playing and getting really involved with the music. It’s a good tool for music. I wouldn’t want to be stoned and do my taxes,” he adds, “but it’s no problem getting stoned and playing my guitar for a couple of hours.” ✱



Ian, Touter and Roger test the vibes.

'In Jamaica, the man used to say: "The vibe is nice and the studio cloudy," Ian remembers. 'The studio was cloudy because before any session, a man would light the chalice and set the vibes in the air. That's the blessing.'

night that were very powerful, and they weren't planned," Touter remembers. "The first incident happened onstage with us. We were playing this song, 'Peace Treaty Special,' and in the middle of it, Jacob started calling up all these [rival gangsters] who, a few months before, these people would kill each other. But they all come together onstage with

Jakes. And the second incident was with Bob, after he call [Manley and Seaga] to the stage at the same time. It was really electrifying."

Honoring the 30th anniversary of Jacob Miller's death, Inner Circle got together with friends Damian and Stephen Marley, Junior Reid, Luciano, Slightly Stoopid and Rasta poet Mutabaruka to create an old-fashioned roots album that would address such global issues as violence, poverty and hypocrisy. When I ask them about *State of da World*, they insist that I play the first track. I pop it into the CD player, cue it to "Interlude" and listen as Mutabaruka declares, over a soundscape of keyboards, chaos and bullets:

"Look at the world today, what can we really say? Children going astray, where will they play? When leaders fight for power, the clock is ticking, who knows the hour? Politicians playing a silly game, religious leaders doing the same. Now the people is to blame, fan the flame, fan the flame. People of the world caught between death and destruction, caught between politics and religion ... we need a reality check!"

For Roger, reggae music and the quest for social justice are one and the same. "Rebel music, reggae music, freedom, freedom, freedom!" he proclaims. "That's all our cry, from Marcus Garvey to ska, of our admission into the human family—because we have always felt and been treated like we have never been part of the human family. The blacker you are, the more worthless you are; the lighter you are—the establishment and the status quo, you can get a good choice. To me, we have made great strides. At least now, when a man in America cannot deny that education is the biggest criteria to put himself forward and skin is not to hold him back—Barack Obama; if you are educated and you can conduct yourself, you can go to the highest office of the land. So things have changed." ✨

INNER CIRCLE'S REALITY CHECK

The band that gave us 'Bad Boys' goes back to their roots. By Chris Simunek

"If Michael Jackson smoked weed, he'd still be alive today!" declares Ian Lewis as Inner Circle arrives at the HIGH TIMES offices, a little red-eyed after their flight from Miami.

Though known primarily for their 1987 crossover hit "Bad Boys," which was used as the theme song for the television show *COPS*, Inner Circle had a long career before someone at the Fox network thought that armchair America might find it entertaining to sit and watch people getting arrested while they ate dinner. Ian, along with his brother Roger, formed Inner Circle in Kingston, Jamaica, in the late '60s while the two were still in high school. In the '70s, they teamed up with the inimitable roots singer Jacob Miller, creating a string of memorable hits that included the classic "Tenement Yard." (If you want to see this lineup in its prime, track down a copy of the seminal 1978 Jamaican reggae movie *Rockers*, as their performance of this number is the film's highlight.) Miller died in a car accident in 1980, right before the band was to embark on an American tour supporting Bob Marley and the Wailers, but Inner Circle regrouped a few years later in Miami and has since kept the core band of the Lewis brothers on bass and guitar and Bernard "Touter" Harvey on keyboards. Their studio, Circle House, has recorded the likes of Alicia Keys, Mariah Carey, Lauryn Hill and P. Diddy.

Considering that their biggest hit is synonymous in this country with getting busted, I ask them about the police in Jamaica.

"The police only deal with weed on two levels," Roger explains: "big-money level, or if they

want to harass you. In Jamaica, them don't need no probable cause."

"Sometimes, the police put up their own roadblock," Ian adds. "They want some money. There was a Canadian man went back to Canada and said Jamaica has the best system he ever seen, where you pay for your ticket right on the road! Ya have to understand something: The police in Jamaica, their pay is very small, so in a day, if he can hit five, six people ... every man have to survive."

It's no surprise, for a band who made their name in the highly competitive Jamaican music industry of the mid-'70s, that marijuana was an ever-present ingredient in their recording sessions.

"In Jamaica, the man used to say: 'The vibe is nice and the studio cloudy,'" Ian remembers. "The studio was cloudy because before any session, a man would light the chalice and set the vibes in the air. That's the blessing. A lot of people say it lowers sperm count—I can tell you about 200 of my dread friends have about a million kids, so I don't know which doctor they talking to."

One of the high points of Inner Circle's career was their show at the One Love Peace Concert in 1978, wherein Bob Marley attempted to bring together Jamaica's two warring political factions, the socialist People's National Party, headed by Michael Manley, and the conservative Jamaican Labor Party, headed by Edward Seaga. The event was actually the brainchild of two rival gangsters who acted as a ghetto paramilitary force for the two factions, Bucky Marshall (PNP) and Claudie Massop (JLP).

"There are two incidents that happened that



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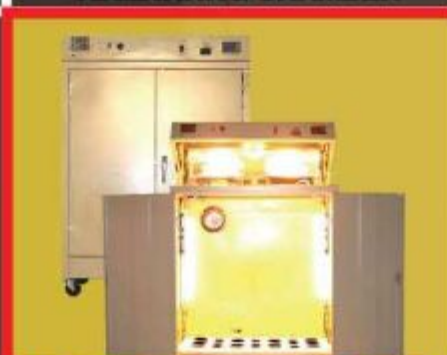


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Gringo Star get high with a little help from their friends at HIGH TIMES.

gringo star's stony road

Pop and pot from Atlanta, GA. By John Fortunato

Atlanta retro-rockers Gringo Star have certainly faced their share of minor tribulations along the dusty, weed-fueled path to underground success. In fact, right before reaching the HIGH TIMES office, the free-spirited multi-instrumentalists got pulled over upon entering New York City. It seems the bohemian Southerners innocently made an illegal right turn at a midtown red light. Luckily, they were able to weasel their way out of the traffic ticket—especially since, moments earlier, they had cooked up some weed and had to hide the pungent fumes with a few timely cigarettes.

Nick Furguele, who formed Gringo Star with his younger brother Pete and his best friend, Pete De Lorenzo, recalls a few other close encounters with the law: “Once, I drove overnight from New Orleans to Texas. Then, Matt [McCalvin, recruited to fill out the lineup] took over driving at 9 a.m. and got pulled over immediately by two George W. Bush look-alikes. They were defiant cowboys asking if we were doing drugs. They searched and spilled shit, found a cup with discarded peanut shells, opened our cooler with the rotten food—but didn’t find the weed stored in it.”

The cops ultimately let ‘em go, but not before threatening to get search dogs.

There was also the time they got busted on the streets of Hollywood, outside an Interpol concert. “We circled the block looking for a parking space,” Nick says. “We got pulled over, and the cops said the van smelled like weed.”

Pete De Lorenzo adds, “The cops told us we were in a high transvestite and prostitute area. They went into the van with searchlights looking for prostitutes, but it started raining, so they left.”

Finally, Nick harks back to the time they were pulled over in Little Rock, AR, by an overeager cop working as a part-time musician. “They said we had a cracked windshield,” he says. “The cop looked inside the vehicle, saw the instrument cases and said, ‘I play in a classic-rock cover band.’ He tried to relate to the music. Then he looked me in the eye and goes, ‘You got pot in this car?’ I said no. They searched, but if you deny it until the end, they usually say, ‘Screw it!’”

When Gringo Star’s foursome aren’t getting hassled for minor offenses, they’re delivering some of the finest melodic rock you’re likely to come

across. Their eclectic blockbuster debut, *All Y’all*, collects a baker’s dozen of the egalitarian ensemble’s favorite numbers, including a punk-thrashed version of Lee Hazelwood’s “Rebel Kind.”

Though time-honored ‘60s relics such as the Animals, Kinks and Beatles come to mind when perusing *All Y’all*, the Furguelles & Co. also have a soft spot for the rhythm-and-blues artists of yesteryear, extending beyond the obvious choices like Motown and Stax. Perhaps that’s due to their grandfather, Ed “Dr. Jive” Mendel, a well-respected Georgia DJ who went on to promote high-profile live shows at Columbus Municipal Auditorium during the 1960s.

Pete Furguele confides: “My grandfather was a big promoter of rhythm and blues. He started out as a disc jockey, opened a few record shops and managed bands. He knew Sam Cooke, Otis Redding, James Brown and Jackie Wilson.”

According to Pete, Aretha Franklin once fell off the stage drunk and tried to sue Mendel.

Once our conversation is done, I offer to drive the band downtown, back to where their van is parked, right outside the night’s venue.

It’s a compact Manhattan club called Pianos, and it’s filled to capacity for Gringo Star’s 50-minute set highlighting *All Y’all*’s best tracks alongside a few well-chosen earlier songs. Pete De Lorenzo, who’s been sick all day (and missed our interview session), steps up first with a restive “I Will Not Follow,” then heads for the drums as McCalvin goes from second guitar to singer-pianist on the edgy “No Man.” Nick takes over for a few Brit-accented power-pop numbers before younger sibling Pete serves up the searing ax-burner “Up and Down.”

When they finally return to Atlanta, the Furguelles are looking forward to celebrating their homecoming with some Shishkaberry, a smooth and fruity marijuana strain that’s seemingly all the rage in Georgia these days.

“Yeah, we’ll likely be hitting it, all right,” De Lorenzo confirms.

Such is life these days for a struggling American band traveling the crowded highways in a hazy, smoke-filled van. 🌿

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BACK TO THE EGG

*This Is Your Country On Drugs:
The Secret History of Getting High in America*

RYAN GRIM

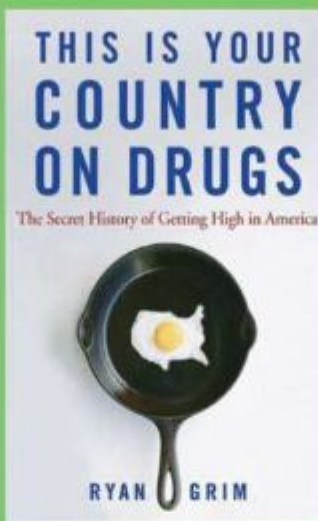
(Wiley)



Every stoner either remembers them clearly or has stared at them on YouTube in red-eyed disbelief—those egg-in-a-frying-pan commercials: “This is your brain. This is your brain on drugs. Any questions?” In his new book, Ryan Grim enthusiastically raises his hand and shouts: “Pick me! Pick me!” And he’s hardly sitting in the back of the class.

This Is Your Country cleverly probes the question of why we’re a nation that clearly prefers to keep its collective brain on drugs—if not in one form, then another—and also the effects that preference has had on our society from its very beginnings.

Savvy stoners normally have some facts stashed under their bongos about drug-policy history, culled from the numerous books that have been written and sourced on the subject time and time again, but Grim’s history is loaded with facts that have often been overlooked. He writes: “While the standard drug narrative begins in the oh-so-wild late sixties, let’s not kid ourselves. Future Americans were getting obliterated on their way to the continent, and perhaps no decade has witnessed as



much better living through chemistry as the 1890s, a time when the movement against alcohol ushered in a buffet of modern highs.”

Grim’s take on the swells of the temperance movement in the nineteenth century and the production of new synthetic highs is a great jaunt into a past that becomes us. “Human behavior is very difficult to change,” he notes. “So if Americans all of a sudden stopped getting drunk, what did they do instead? They tended to their families. They prayed. And yes, they labored. But they also got high.”

Grim provides us with lots of examples from the mid-1880s, such as when the Parke-Davis Company boasted that cocaine could “supply the place of food, make the coward brave, the silent eloquent” and “sold cocaine kits complete with a syringe.” Or when, in 1898, Bayer “trademarked the wonder drug Heroin because it made people feel heroic.”

From the ridiculousness of *Reefer Madness* to the delusional undertakings of DARE, Grim’s history of drugs in America is both an exercise in empathetic anthropology and an exposé of American drug policy and its subsequent effects on the rest of the world. In a journalistic style that both informs and intrigues the reader, Grim analyzes the full spectrum of players involved in the current debate, from government agencies like the CIA and DEA to lobbying groups like his former employer, the Marijuana Policy Project—and, of course, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, the geniuses who laid that infamous egg.—**Mary Ought Six**

JAY REATARD

Watch Me Fall

(Matador)



Memphis’s Jay Reatard has been in about eight million bands, including the legendary Reatards, which he started as a teen; the synthy, New Wave garagers Lost Sounds; metal hellions Evil Army; and the almost brutally unlistenable Final Solutions. In 2006, Reatard went solo with *Blood Visions*, the cover of which showed him soaked in blood and wearing what looked like a diaper. To be honest, I figured the contents of the record would be on par with the contents of the diaper, because by the time artists (especially those in the “harder” genres) get around to billing themselves under their own names, they usually have run out of shit to say and people to play with and are basically just stroking it like Clarence Carter—only you don’t have to tell them not to “stroke so fast,” because they’ve already slowed down to the pace at which oatmeal drips from a spoon.

So I didn’t buy it, but now I will, because Reatard’s second full-length, *Watch Me Fall*, shows that he only retarded his speed while turning up the dial on his Cap’n Crunch-y power-pop licks, ADD-brief song structures, and lyrics that bleed fury and dissatisfaction. Standouts include the rager “Before I Was Caught” and the sky-blackening power ballad “There Is No Sun.” Some of the songs get a little same-y, and the production is unfortunately balls-free, but this guy can turn any track into a heart-ripper live, so remember that while you’re trying to match his stroke.—**Polly Watson**



NICK CAVE

The Death of Bunny Munro

(Faber & Faber)



Twenty years have passed since Australian alpha-punk turned middle-aged artiste Nick Cave announced his literary aspirations with *And the Ass Saw the Angel*. And if his latest novel had been made into a movie (as originally intended), it may have been an even longer wait. Just as well, because the lurid escapades of Bunny Munro, a sleazy, sex-addicted door-to-door salesman, probably would have never made it onto the screen in the form described here. When his clinically depressed wife commits suicide, a shell-shocked Bunny takes his withdrawn and precocious son, Bunny Jr., on an odyssey across southern England, hoping to school him on the best ways to sell and manipulate women.

Since this is Nick Cave, one shouldn’t expect subtlety from the results. Generously ladling on the crass sexual fantasies and cartoonish depictions of suburban decadence, Nick certainly rams home the descent-into-hell metaphor any way he can, even providing the exploits of a devil-suit-wearing serial killer as a counterpoint to Bunny’s predatorial journey. It’s like watching a Tex Avery animation of a Charles Bukowski poem; the exaggerated surrealism of the settings makes for entertaining but hardly profound reading. And because Cave is ultimately a proud parent, paternal sentiment does rear its ugly head in a climax that bears a strong resemblance to the film *All That Jazz*, albeit replacing the latter’s devastating cynicism with an unlikely piece of redemption. Ultimately, Munro is a pretty shallow (if initially intriguing and amusing) character, and Cave makes a mistake in ascribing nonexistent depth to his story.—**Justin Hampton**



THE ALIENS

Luna

(Birdman Records)



Luna throws down the psyche gauntlet from the outset with the album’s opener, a multi-movement, 10-minute-plus paean called “Bobby’s Song,” which sounds like a more vibrant Moody Blues bringing a bevy of swirling instruments to bear (including harmonica, accordion and otherworldly keyboards) in hailing “joking, toking, smoking Jones.”

This Scottish group features three former members of the Beta Band, including founding guitarist Gordon Anderson, who had to leave the band’s first EP, when he was overtaken by demonic possession. (Doctors suggested schizophrenia brought on by a steady diet of hallucinogenic drugs.) Electroshock and pharmaceuticals didn’t help Anderson, but a pair of Christians managed to save him, and when the Beta Band broke up five years ago, two of its members reunited with Anderson for the Aliens’ 2007 debut, *Astronomy for Dogs*.

This follow-up forges even bigger tapestries of grandiose pop, fluttering psych and the kind of odd-ball, kitchen-sink arrangements that one could expect from the Beta Band. Their joyous widescreen aesthetic wanders among horn-abetted raves (“Magic Man”), gets “lost inside the chasms of my mind” on the undulating, folk-tinged epic “Billy Jack,” and promises to get high on bright, bounding, *Sgt. Peppers*-style Beatles pop (“Sunlamp Show”). It’s a tour de force delivered with plenty of melody and an unhurried, mind-expanded sense of wonder. *Luna* isn’t well suited to listeners who demand a strong sense of direction, but for those who enjoy lying on their back and watching the clouds roll by, it’s an album full of strange nooks, deep crannies and imaginative adventure.—**Chris Parker**



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HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH URBAN SUN

Urban Sun is an eight-piece New York City band that combines elements of funk, rock and soul to create an energetic and unforgettable live show. An Urban Sun concert can be quite the funky ride, as the band covers a lot of ground—everything from original tunes to their homages to legendary influences like the Meters, Stevie Wonder, Sly and the Family Stone, and P-Funk (to name but a few).

Urban Sun's grooves are skin-tight, creative, deeply funky and highly infectious—once you hear them, you'll know why they're notorious for removing butts from their chairs. Performing since 2002, the band has developed a strong NYC fan base, consistently packing hundreds of heads into venues like B.B. King's, the Knitting Factory, Mercury Lounge, Sullivan Hall and many more. Now word is spreading beyond the five boroughs, and the band has been gaining fans up and down the East Coast, playing solid shows and opening for such class acts as Trombone Shorty, Johnny Sketch, Salvador Santana and Cyril Neville.

Urban Sun is currently hard at work on the follow-up to their 2008 studio debut, *Practice Me* (available via iTunes, CDbaby and Amazon). In addition to the funky grooves that fans have come to expect, the album will also include an exclusive new track written by New Orleans music legend Allen Toussaint.

For more on Urban Sun, including audio samples, album information and tour dates, head to hightimes.com/urbansun.

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BY BOBBY BLACK

HIGH HONORS IN BOSTON

At the 2008 Boston Freedom Rally, there was electricity in the air. The talk of the town was Question 2, the state's first marijuana-decriminalization ballot initiative, and there was one rallying cry that captured the hope and determination of everyone on the Common and rang out over and over, loud and clear, throughout the day: *No cuffs for cannabis*. When I sat in my office the following week, editing the footage from the rally, I could think of no more fitting title for my podcast.

Then, on Election Day, that electricity coalesced into a streak of lightning that struck ballot boxes all across the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Because of that resounding victory—and because it was the rally's 20th anniversary—everyone knew this past September's event would be one to remember. So I was honored when MassCann president Keith Saunders invited me back as a speaker.

Arriving in Boston late on Friday night, I headed straight for the Middle East club in Cambridge, where MassCann's annual pre-party and awards show were well underway. There I found the usual cast of characters: NORML founder Keith Stroup, Miss HIGH TIMES 2007 Sarah Newton, Mike Cann, rapper DJ Slim, pop rockers Prospect Hill and, of course, my bud-tokin' Bostonian buddy, Danny Danko, who immediately commandeered me to the stage.

"There you are, Bobby—just in time," he said. "You have to come onstage with me and accept this award."

"Cool What's the award for—Best Media, like last year?"

"No, Best Rally Video. This award isn't just for HIGH TIMES—it's for *you*."

I was pretty high, so it took a moment to sink in.

"Me? I won an award?!?" I was in shock. I don't think I've won an award for anything since that painting I made in art class back in junior high. I had no idea I'd even been nominated, so I was quite surprised and humbled. To celebrate, a few of us slipped away to an apartment down the street for a private pre-party post-party.

We showed up at the rally around noon the next day, unloaded the car and got to work at the HIGH TIMES booth. My first speaking slot was at 2:40 p.m., at the landmark Parkman Bandstand (a.k.a. the Stingray Body Art Second Stage) on the eastern side of the Common. I spent about 10 minutes talking to the small crowd, promoting our latest podcasts and events, before turning the stage over to rally veteran Dave Tree and his band, Superpower. But the slot I was looking forward to most was introducing 2009 Doobie Award winners Grave-

Passin' the mic to *MJ Radio*'s Paul Saurini.



yard BBQ just after 4:20 on the main stage. Unfortunately, that didn't work out quite as planned: With a late start and the last-minute addition of rapper Styles P to the roster (thanks in part to Danny and myself), the day's schedule was thrown off, and before I could get to the stage, the BBQ had already started cooking. So instead, I got to introduce my friend Paul Saurini, producer of *Marijuana Radio*—after I had my own moment in the spotlight, that is.

"When I stood on this stage one year ago, there was a question on everyone's minds," I shouted. "That was Question 2. Well, guess what? We got our answer, and thanks to all of you—thanks to your passion, your determination—nobody here has to go to jail today!" As the 30,000-strong sea of stonerdom before me let out a thunderous cheer, I was simultaneously filled with great pride, humility and exhilaration. It was truly awesome.

After the rally, we walked over to the Boston Tea Party—the private VIP smoke-out held in an undisclosed loft space. There, the day's organizers, speakers and performers kicked back and celebrated a job well done with—well, with shit-tons of weed, what else? There were also some delicious tainted treats being circulated, including powerfully peanuttty canna-butter cups that laid some of us out cold by the end of the night.

I awoke from my cannabis coma the next morning in a panic, realizing that I was late for a very special appointment—I was meeting my HT colleagues for a barbecue brunch at the home of a true icon of the marijuana movement, Dr. Lester Grinspoon. I'd met the good doctor briefly the day before, and he'd invited us to visit him and his wife Betsy at their beautiful home in Wellesley. To my amazement, when I finally got there, he seemed as excited to meet me as I was to meet him—even telling me that he found the column I'd written about meeting his son David in Amsterdam ("Smokin' with Dr. G," HT Oct. '09) to be one of the most well-written articles he'd read in HIGH TIMES in a while. Despite everything else I'd experienced that weekend—all the cannabis I'd consumed, the people I'd partied with, the cool trophy I'd been awarded, even the adoring roar of the crowd—it was the warmth and praise of this brilliant, soft-spoken scholar that gave me the greatest high. Thanks, doc ... and thank you, stoners of Boston. ✨

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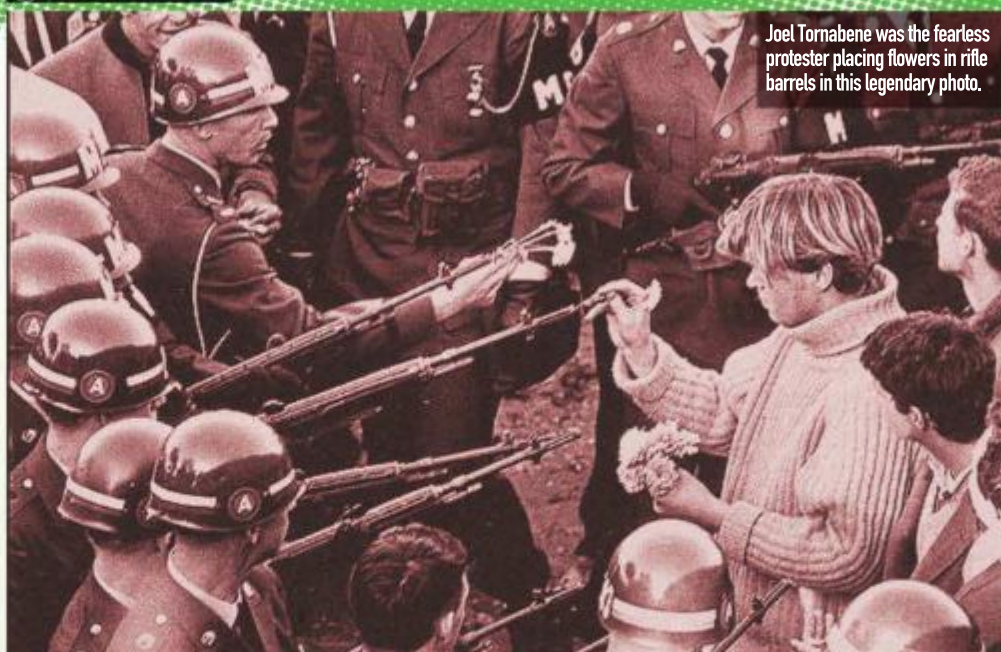
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Joel Tornabene was the fearless protester placing flowers in rifle barrels in this legendary photo.

Tom Waits Meets Super-Joel

The ultimate prankster pranks all with tales of his Mafia heritage. By Paul Krassner

In my 1993 autobiography, *Confessions of a Raving, Unconfined Nut: Misadventures in the Counterculture*, I described Joel Tornabene as “an unheralded Yippie organizer known as Super-Joel. His grandfather was Mafia boss Sam Giancana.” But Super-Joel had dropped out of the family business; instead, he let his hair grow long and distributed LSD.

The intelligence division of the Chicago Police Department warned Giancana that Super-Joel shouldn’t hang around with me. The cops were telling the Mafia that I was a bad influence. It could’ve been worse: The FBI had planned to “neutralize” comedian/activist Dick Gregory by alerting the Mafia to his verbal attacks on the crime syndicate.

Super-Joel once told me: “If it wasn’t for acid, I with my Sicilian ancestry and you with your Jewish ancestry, we would never have become such close friends.” And he kissed me on the forehead. But that was okay—it meant love now, not murder.

After he was arrested during the 1968 counter-convention, I wrote that “Super-Joel’s indictment was dropped when an attorney for Giancana managed to persuade them that not only did Super-Joel come from ‘a socially prominent family’ in Chicago, he was also mentally incompetent to stand trial.”

But then, in 2006, I learned from Joel’s sister Fran that “our grandfathers were a Sicilian doctor and a Norwegian-Irish carpenter. I can’t imagine how anyone would actually believe that Giancana relationship.” I apologized “for passing on false information.”

Fran replied: “I think that Joel must have had quite a good time with the ‘Giancana connection’ hoax. I was first made aware of this story after his death in Mexico in 1993. His attorney came to Chicago to meet with my mother and our family. He seemed to be quite surprised to see a simple middle-class family home in Franklin Park, rather than a River Forest Mafia compound.

“I wasn’t aware of the extent of this story until [rock drummer] Prairie Prince, who I know Joel was close to for years, asked me a few years ago which side of the family was Giancana. Since then, I’ve seen your tale regarding his being moved to the ‘unindicted co-conspirator’ list due to the ‘grandfather connection.’”

I’m embarrassed to admit that I believed this story simply because Joel was extremely convincing when he told it to me. I was a professional prankster who got pranked himself. And I’m not the only one who was fooled. In a radio interview, Tom Waits was asked, “Who’s Joel Tornabene?” And he answered: “He’s in the concrete biz. Mob guy. He was the grandson of Sam Giancana from Chicago. He did some yard work for me, and I hung out with him most of the time. He died in Mexico about five years ago. He was a good friend of [producer/composer] Hal Wilner, and he was a good guy. He had an errant—I don’t know how to put this—he used to go around, and when he saw something he liked in somebody’s yard, he would go back that night with a shovel, dig it up and plant it in your yard.

“We used to get a kick out of that. So I stopped saying, ‘I really like that rosebush, I really like that banana tree, I really like that palm,’ because I knew what it meant. He came over once with twelve chickens as a gift. My wife said, ‘Joel, don’t even turn the car off. Turn that car around and take those chickens back where you found them.’ He was a good friend—one of the wildest guys I’ve ever known.”

Waits has since written a song—“How’s It Gonna End,” on his album *Real Gone*—that includes this lyric: “Joel Tornabene lies broken on the wheel”

Krassner the Luddite has finally dived into the new media. The above is excerpted from an expanded digital edition of *Confessions of a Raving, Unconfined Nut*. For details, check out paulkrassner.com.

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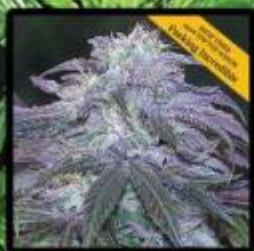
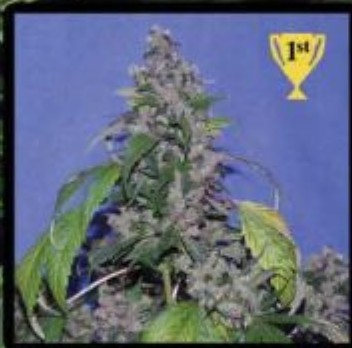
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Liberty and VISC photos by Kat in Skunk issues v3#5 & v3#8

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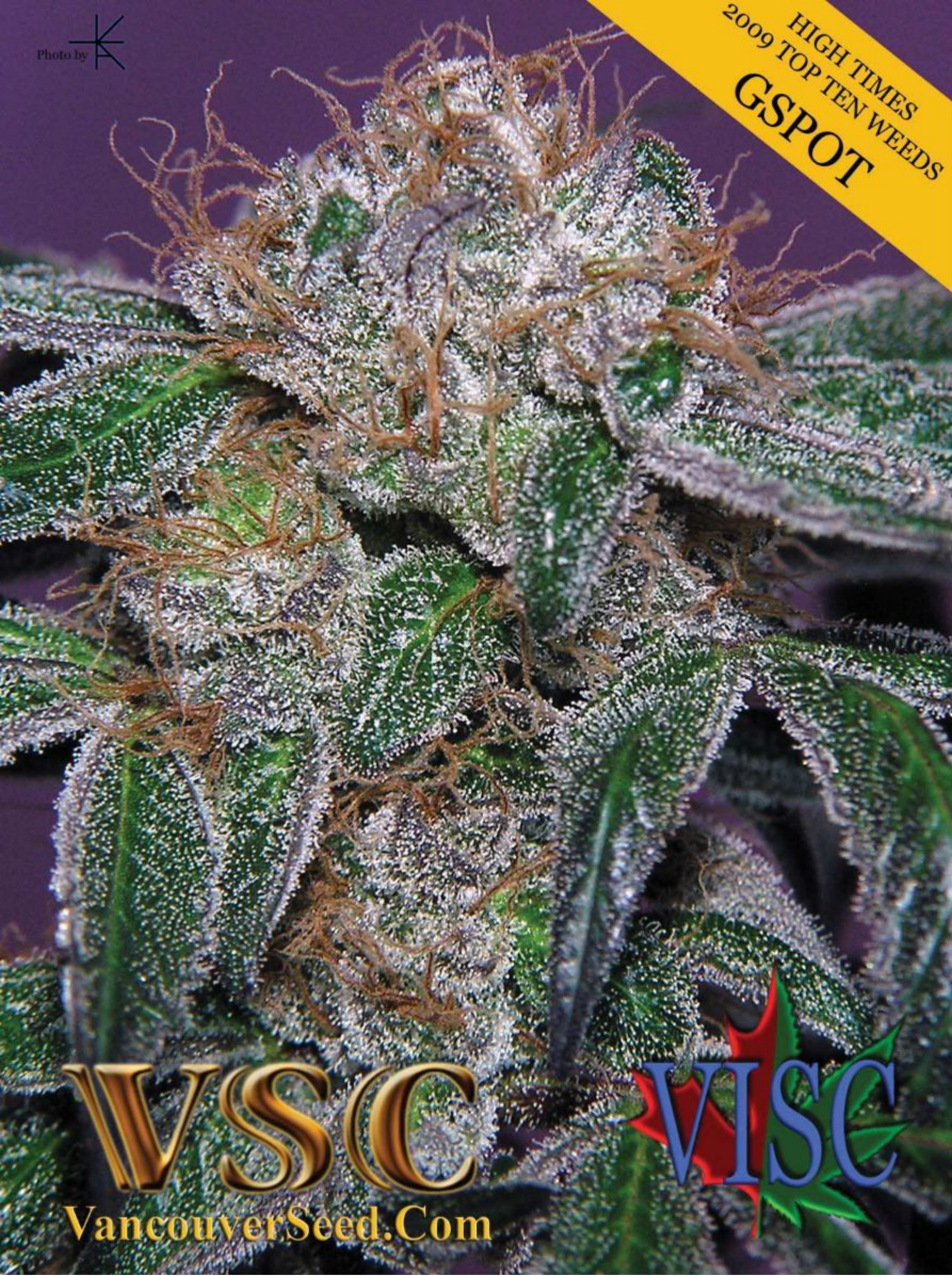
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WAD MOUNTAINS OF MEDICINE

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For years, California struggled alone to maintain a viable program of access to medical marijuana for patients in need. But now Colorado has entered the fray. Demonstrating resolve and unity, the Rocky Mountain State is moving forward vigorously to ensure that its flourishing dispensary scene continues to bloom. Story & photos by Dan Skye

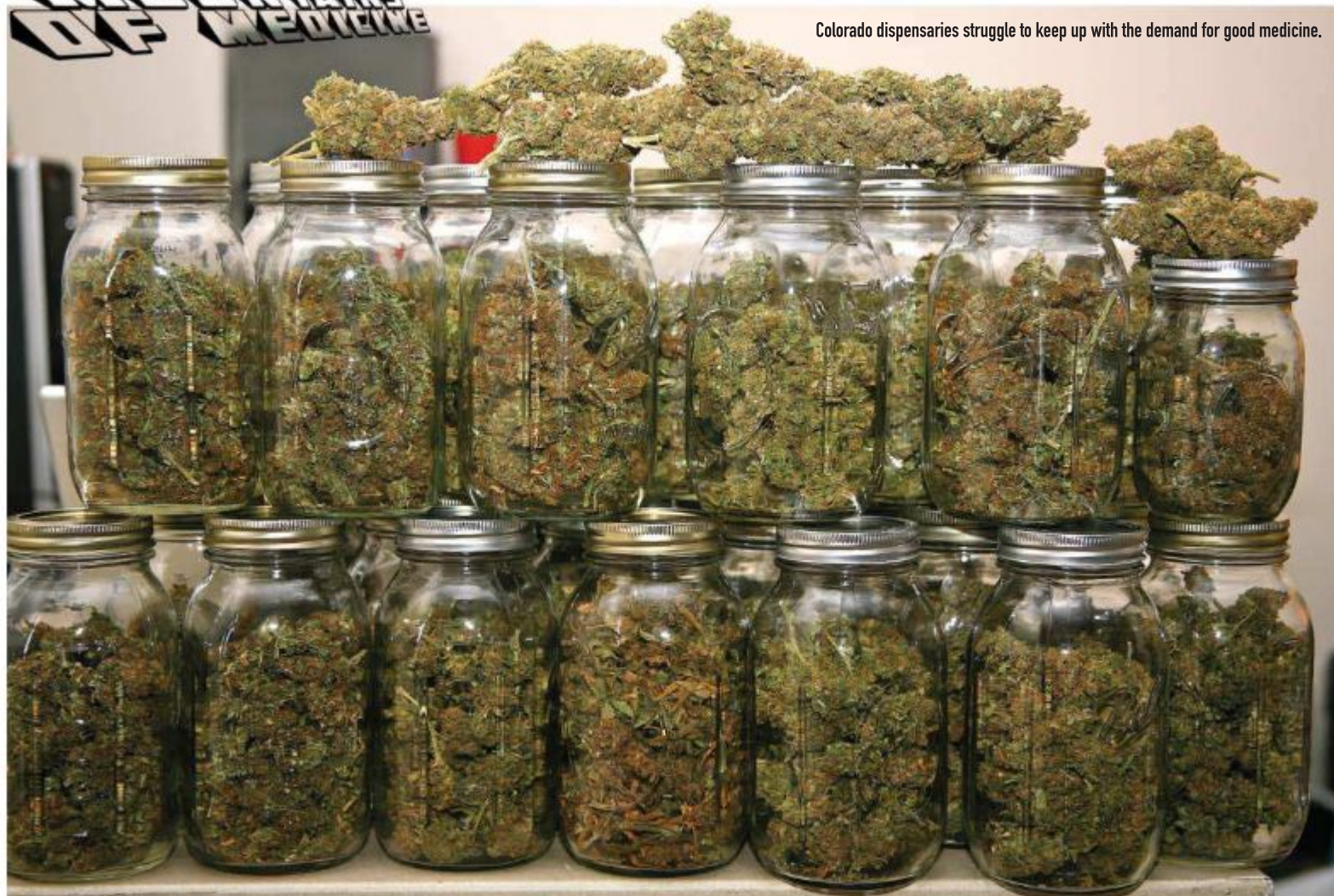
In the long struggle to free the cannabis plant, there have been few watershed moments. Most of our time has been spent battling legislators and law enforcement and countering the government-funded propaganda machine that soils the best efforts of activists. Victories like the passage of Proposition 215 in California, which paved the way for patients to acquire cannabis medicine, have been few and far between. And when politicians have offered statements of support—such as Obama's recent declaration that federal authorities will be easing their war on medical marijuana—they have proven to be little more than political posturing. The recent raids on Southern California dispensaries, carried out with the blessings of the DEA, have borne this out.

Occasionally, however, an authentic moment of change occurs. For Colorado, that moment came in July 2009, when hundreds of medical-marijuana patients and activists showed up to attend a state Board of Health hearing on the question of whether to limit medical-marijuana suppliers to helping only five patients at a time. Obviously, if such a proposal passed,

safe access to medicine would be made difficult at best—and impossible at worst—for thousands of patients in the state.

Colorado passed Amendment 20, which cleared the way for legal medical marijuana, way back in the 2000 election. However, state residents were skittish about implementing a program, and the Bush administration quickly proved to be no friend of cannabis, so the few dispensaries that did exist operated quietly and out of sight. But over the past year, a seismic shift has occurred. Perhaps heartened by the promise of a supposedly kinder, gentler Obama administration, good news is always met with a "wait and see" attitude., Colorado suddenly became the new hotbed for medical marijuana. At the beginning of 2009, only 5,000 Coloradans had applied to the state registry of patients over the preceding nine-year span. But by July, that number had more than doubled—and there were predictions that, by the end of the year, the total number of registered medical-marijuana users would exceed 15,000. The dispensary scene exploded simultaneously.

Colorado dispensaries struggle to keep up with the demand for good medicine.



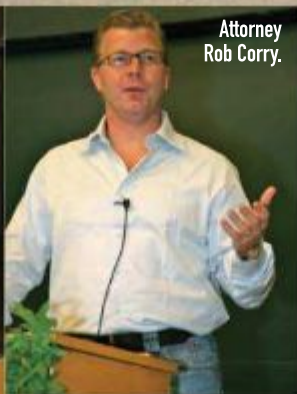
Jason Lauve celebrates his legal victory.



So when the state Board of Health made overtures on curbing the phenomenon, the Colorado medical-marijuana community showed up in force to protest. The result? After 12 hours of testimony—with some of the most persuasive statements coming from war veterans—the proposal was rejected. Fiscally sound government was also a factor in the decision: Citing the nationwide recession, the state health department's chief medical officer, Ned Calonge, expressed concern about using state funds to regulate medical marijuana at the expense of other public-health programs.

Since July, there have been other triumphs as well. Jason Lauve, a patient who uses cannabis for the severe pain he suffers as the result of a skiing accident, was charged with felony possession of 34 ounces of pot. Colorado's medical-marijuana law

Attorney Rob Corry.



Colorado is well on its way to becoming a medical-marijuana superpower.

been at the forefront of medical-marijuana legal battles in the state, argued brilliantly that this was exactly Jason's case, making it clear that the burden of proof doesn't lie with the patient; rather, it is the state's responsibility to prove that the amount of medicine a patient possesses is excessive. Jason was acquitted of all charges in August. Jury members told the media that Jason could have had "a ton" of pot and they still would have voted to acquit him.

Corry is also handling the appeal of Stacy Clendenin, who was convicted in 2006 of felony

possession and distribution of marijuana. Why? As a caregiver, she had never met the patients for whom she was providing medicine. In his opening brief, Corry wrote: "An analogy is a pharmacist who dispenses medicine manufactured by a drug company: there is no need for the individuals who produce the medicine at a drug company far away to personally meet the patients who ultimately use the medicine. Any contrary rule unreasonably restricts a beneficial, life-saving medicine from those who need it to survive but who are incapable of producing it on their own, and unreasonably punishes those like Ms. Clendenin who generously help suffering people."

Lauve's attorney, Rob Corry, who has

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There's little doubt that of all the outstanding questions on the medical-marijuana scene, it's the dispensaries that have politicians most perplexed. California is proof of that: Scores of communities in the state have imposed zoning laws to stem their proliferation—the NIMBY ("not in my backyard") mind-set in action. But at present, the dispensary scene in Colorado is still growing. Attorney Rob Corry once again cites state law, which clearly asserts that "No person, including a patient or primary care-giver, shall be entitled to the protection ... for his or her acquisition, possession, manufacture, production, use, sale, distribution, dispensing, or transportation of marijuana for any use other than medical use." As Corry points out, "The term 'dispensing' certainly implies that a *dispensary* would be the logical place to *dispense* medicine."

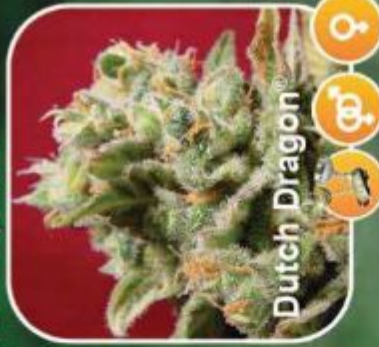
As 2010 gets underway, Colorado is well on its way to becoming a medical-marijuana superpower, with at least 100 to 150 dispensaries expected to be up and running by the end of 2009.

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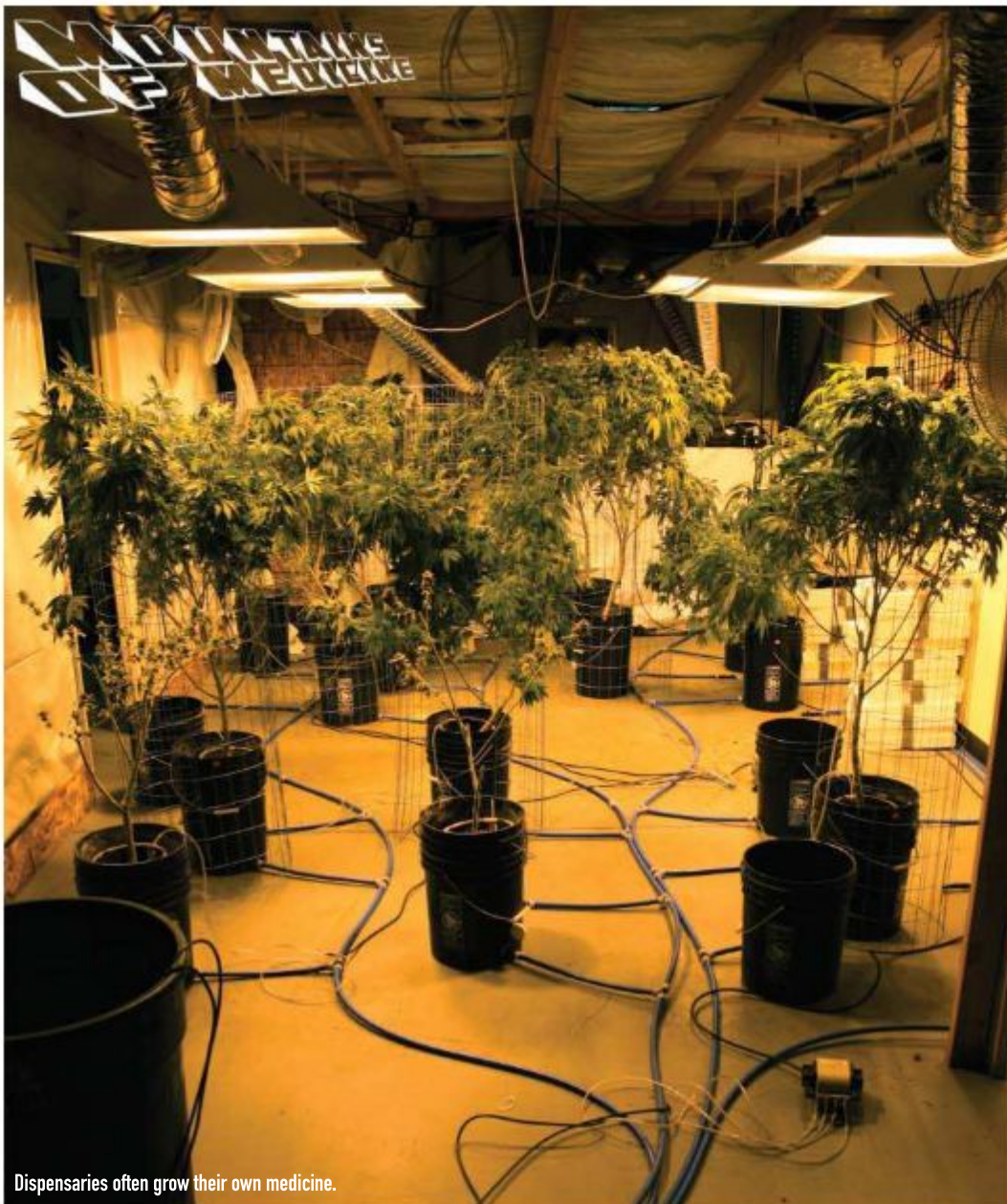
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Dispensaries often grow their own medicine.



Andy Orr and Todd Young of Boulder's Therapeutic Compassion Club.

But the boom hasn't occurred without a few problematic questions cropping up, the most glaring one being: "Where is all this pot coming from?"

It's a question that Todd Young and Andy Orr must address. They're co-owners of the Therapeutic Compassion Club in Boulder. Todd and Andy scrupulously follow state law to the letter and maintain a very strict membership (referral only) in order to maintain security while at the same time providing everyone with their proper share of medicine. "We have a limited supply of medicine, and we can only handle our patients," Todd says. "Otherwise, we'd be forced to go to the black market, and so would our patients."

Ernie Travis of Boulder Vital Herbs has barely been able to keep up with his new clientele, which has grown exponentially via word of mouth. "My



Kathleen Chippi of One Brown Mouse.

biggest challenge has been keeping meds on the shelf," he says. "When I started this business, I could only legally grow 24 plants, so I had to buy a lot of my meds. Now that people have gotten to know me, they've made me their caregiver. So I can now

grow more. Right now, it's my No. 1 stress. The other challenge is dealing with all the misinformation out there. I spend way more time explaining laws than I do explaining different strains."

Truth be told, dispensaries that shade the truth in order to keep their profit margins high spread much of the misinformation. Kathleen Chippi, who runs One Brown Mouse in Nederland, gets downright angry when patients come into her store and tell her about dispensaries who have informed them that, in order to purchase medicine, these patients must sign exclusive agreements naming the dispensary as their primary caregiver.

"It's a blatant lie," Kathleen fumes. "Patients can go anywhere they want. It's ridiculous that people are being told that they need a *membership* in order to buy medicine."



A half-million cheesecakes sold—and counting!

THE CHEESECAKE LADY

When you've sold nearly half a million medicinal mini-cheesecakes over the course of a decade, it's pretty clear that you've earned the name of "Cheesecake Lady." Jessica LeRoux calls it her *nom de tour* (as opposed to *nom de guerre*), because she's a self-described rock'n'roll fanatic and a fixture on the music-festival circuit. In fact, Jessica's got a fan base all her own, because she was baking up a storm long before the legalization curve hit Colorado.

"I'm already providing over a dozen dispensaries with my products," she says, "and I've got about nine more on the waiting list."

It's pretty clear why the Cheesecake Lady is in demand: Her treats are beyond delectable. The cheesecakes come in a variety of flavors—peanut butter, chocolate, blueberry, caramel, raspberry, chocolate chip, plus combinations of each—and she also produces 10 different flavors of cannabis-laced chocolates that will rock anybody's world. Her secret is making sure that the potency is uniform in every treat she makes. Of course, tastiness is a key factor, but she seems to have already mastered that requirement.

"My business has grown astronomically," Jessica says, "and at last I've found a commercial kitchen that isn't scared of a baker who uses one very *special* ingredient."

Over the past Christmas season, the Cheesecake Lady donated hundreds of treats to a benefit for indigent Colorado patients, in order that those on fixed incomes could enjoy the holidays properly as well. She is also adamant about selling her products only to dispensaries that operate their business with a moral compass.

"I've gone into places where I see prices of \$90 an eighth," she says. "I just turn around and walk out. This is medicine—it's not a commodity to get rich."

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PATIENTS' CHOICE AWARD WINNERS

Last fall, the Colorado medical community gathered to judge the high point of Rocky Mountain State buds. At the Oriental Theater in downtown Denver, private growers and dispensaries offered up 25 prime specimens of Colorado's finest to be judged by registered medical patients. Crunchberry, an indoor *indica* grown in soil at 8,500 feet, ran away with the top prize. Grand Valley Co-op took top honors for Crunchberry, and also took second and third place with entries of Bruce Banner and Hawaiian Indica.

Bruce Banner. Organically grown in soil, indoors at 8,785 feet.

Crunchberry. Organically grown in soil, indoors at 8,497 feet.

Hawaiian Indica. Organically grown in soil, indoors at 8,785 feet.

Even worse is the fact that some dispensaries are engaging in downright unscrupulous practices. Jacob Lill of Medical Cannabis Colorado LLC in Denver lays it out: "Charging \$70 to \$90 for an *eighth* is wrong! Kifing the medicine and then selling the kif separately is wrong! Being unreliable, lazy, and ignoring people who are trusting you is wrong! There are many who are getting involved in this industry with no experience and are motivated only by money—and it's wrong!"

So Jason has tried to make things right. He offers some of the best and cheapest med-pot in the state, high-quality medicine at the lowest possible price: \$35 for an eighth, including tax. His dispensary also provides resources and services, including holistic healing such as massage therapy and energy work, pain-management support groups, counseling, addiction support groups and a variety of classes.

Says Mark Rose, who runs Grateful Meds in Nederland: "The fact is, people are still scared after 70 years of propaganda. For a lot of people, registering as a medical-marijuana patient is a big step. Many of the dispensary owners who have rushed to open are only looking at the short term; they're in it for the big bucks now. But give it time—the best dispensaries will make themselves known, and people will gravitate toward them."

Dispensary owners are cautiously optimistic about the federal government's interest in the burgeoning Colorado scene. Many seem to believe that if they assiduously comply with state standards, the Feds won't target them. Of course, that flies in the face of last summer's raids in San Diego and Los Angeles. The mainstream media has been quick to tag the Colorado med-pot boom as "the new Wild West," but that's wholly inaccurate.



Mark Rose of Grateful Meds.

'The best dispensaries will make themselves known, and people will gravitate toward them.'

rate: The dispensaries do want standards, but no one can agree upon exactly what they should be.

Recently in Longmont, CO, a meeting of dispensary owners and others involved in the medical-marijuana industry made it clear that hammering out a viable system will take considerable patience. Proposals were put before the group that would prevent dispensaries from opening near day-care centers or schools; signs displaying pot leaves would also be prohibited.

Many in attendance objected, calling the proposals nothing more than a modern form of reefer madness that demonized a particular type of medicine for no good reason.

Hardcore activists are more resistant, taking even the current Colorado law to task. "Why should medicine be restricted this way?" asked one dispensary owner following the meeting. "You don't need a doctor's recommendation to buy Advil or Tylenol. Too much aspirin can kill you, but cannabis won't—are there restrictions on drugstores? Pharmacies don't worry about schoolchildren, and the stuff behind their counters can be absolutely toxic. Why should we try to regulate ourselves in this way? We're only hurting ourselves by predefining our industry's products as something harmful."

In the meantime, the Colorado "green rush" continues, with entrepreneurs pouring into the state to take advantage of the new financial opportunities. Considering our ailing economy, with the real-estate, banking and construction sectors currently in the tank, there are few industries that offer such high hopes for liquidity. Still, nobody likes fast-buck artists making their dough on the backs of medical patients.

Right now, the best solution for creating and maintaining a viable system for safe access—one that truly addresses those who need the medicine—comes from Rob Corry. It's an idea that should be embraced by everyone who wishes to see medical marijuana become a reality.

"It's time to pull ourselves together," Corry says. "The more patients, providers, growers and industry people we can pull together, the stronger our voting bloc will be for the future." That way, he adds, "we cannot be ignored." 🌿

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**By David Bienenstock
Photos by Danny Danko**

Have you ever dreamed of growing completely legal cannabis, in a lush garden next to your house, without worrying about nosy neighbors, the local sheriff or even the DEA? Would you enjoy starting your day by walking barefoot through your own private, state-sanctioned medical-marijuana garden, calmly watering your 10-foot-tall Jack Herer plants while the morning sun glistens off the thick coat of resin covering the uppermost buds?

Naturally, you allow yourself to indulge in that kind of pleasant daydreaming every now and again, but it's just the stuff of fantasy, right? The part in the movie where Tommy Chong wakes up from his hazy stupor and discovers that the local drug task force has just taken his prized plant hostage so they can secretly smoke it themselves, or some such. Only here's the thing: Cultivating legal pot is no longer a fantasy, a pipe dream or even a wonderful future inevitability still just out of reach.

In 14 states (and growing), medical marijuana already enjoys some level of official legal protection, and most pot pundits point to last November's presidential election as the biggest tipping point in Mary Jane's favor since voters approved Proposition 215 in 1996—a ballot initiative that made California the first state to protect medical-marijuana patients, growers and providers.

For 12 years following the passage of Prop. 215, as state after state boldly followed California's lead, the federal government steadfastly refused to recognize any law approving marijuana use of any kind. In fact, during both the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations, this discrepancy led to

* **Void where prohibited. Federal restrictions still apply, but will not be enforced unless you somehow piss off the authorities, or just get unlucky.**

This mixed-used garden includes cannabis, fruits, vegetables, salad greens and companion plants designed to attract beneficial insects.



Growing medicinal-grade cannabis includes drying, trimming and curing your herb properly.

prosecution of those fully in compliance with state law. For example, in *Raich v. Ashcroft*, the federal government went all the way to the Supreme Court in order to affirm its right to arrest a woman suffering from fibromyalgia, endometriosis, scoliosis, asthma and an inoperable brain tumor, all because she grew her own marijuana, on her own property, and consumed it entirely herself—on the recommendation of her doctor, and in complete compliance with California state law.

With the election of Barack Obama, that policy changed. Asked on the campaign trail for his position, Obama called medical marijuana “entirely appropriate” and promised an end to DEA raids of medical-cannabis providers in states with laws protecting them. But just two days after Obama’s historic inauguration, the DEA raided a medical-marijuana dispensary in South Lake Tahoe, CA. Two weeks later, the DEA raided another California dispensary, this time on the very day that Eric Holder, the new US attorney general, took office. In both instances, the raids appeared timed to embarrass the new administration into maintaining the status quo.

In response, the medical-marijuana community—highly organized after decades of struggle, oppression and resistance—made its voice heard in Washington. Following a public outcry, Holder—freshly minted as the “highest” law-enforcement officer in the land—reaffirmed the new administration’s hands-off policy on medicinal pot. Asked if the post-inauguration medical-marijuana raids would continue, the attorney general of the United States said, “No. What the president said during the campaign ... is now

American policy.” On October 19th of last year, the administration followed up in writing, sending a memo to US Attorneys affirming that while marijuana remains illegal at the federal level, and prosecution of black market marijuana would continue, the Justice Department “should not focus federal resources in your States on individuals whose actions are in clear and unambiguous compliance with existing state laws providing for the medical use of marijuana.”

So there you have it: If your state allows you to grow, smoke or even distribute medical marijuana, the big bad Feds have vowed to respect those laws. But a few questions remain: How *exactly* do I follow state law? What about local ordinances? And what if the cops decide to bust me anyway?

All valid concerns. The chart on page 50 offers a broad overview of medical-marijuana laws state by state, including any limits on the amount of dried cannabis or living plants you can lawfully possess. More information, including local ordinances, can be found online at safeaccessnow.org, by contacting your state, county or municipal government directly, or by contacting a knowledgeable attorney in your area.

As you can imagine, though, in an area of the law this new and this controversial, there have been many skirmishes back and forth, not only between state governments and the Feds, but also between local and state governments. San Diego County actually sued the State of California in an attempt to block implementation of medical-marijuana laws. After losing in the lower courts, the politically conservative county

GROW
LEGAL
POT

Medical-marijuana “plant limits” give growers every incentive to cultivate monster-sized plants like these. By constructing their own enormous planting bed out of burlap and wire fencing, these growers allow room for the kind of massive root growth needed to support plus-sized plants.

We discovered a pot paradise, with longtime ganja farmers bringing their crops out of their hiding places and returning the herb to its proper home in full sunshine.

appealed to the US Supreme Court, which in May 2009 refused to hear the case—a major victory for medical-marijuana activists, since it effectively affirmed earlier decisions, thereby forcing San Diego County to implement a medical-marijuana ID program.

Unfortunately, not everyone seems to have gotten the memo, and the fight against medical marijuana rages on in certain areas—but with an important new twist. Now the powers that be must prove that you violated state or local law, instead of relying on the federal government as the law-enforcement option of last resort.

So while the current system's far from perfect, and vindictive law-enforcement officials in many regions still have it in for a medical-marijuana movement they've never truly accepted, those who doubt the scale and sweep of change should check out www.hightimes.com/12pounds/

and watch a video of Richard Daleman, from Visalia, CA, rolling 12 pounds of previously confiscated medical marijuana *out* of the Tulare County Courthouse after officials determined it was improperly seized and must be returned to its rightful owner.

Wasn't that an inspiring bit of video?

Anyway, lately, legalized medical marijuana has become something of an obsession in the media, with much of the coverage surprisingly positive, and most of the attention on California. The Golden State has captured the popular imagination for a variety of reasons: It's the nation's traditional “breadbasket” of ganja growing; the state government's massive budget shortfall has made the marijuana business an increasingly important (and recession-proof) sector of the economy; and, by a wide margin, California has the largest number of licensed medical-marijuana patients.

Perhaps most importantly, California's the state with the greatest number of medical-marijuana dispensaries, some of which have been up and running 10 years or longer, having completed a journey from civil disobedience against the federal government's all-out ban to openly selling medical cannabis as respected members of the local community.

And, naturally, now that the heat's off and the global economy has cooled, a lot of people have started to look at legal marijuana as a way to make a buck. Which brings us to perhaps the most underappreciated recent milestone in the evolution of America's approach to medical marijuana: California Attorney General Jerry Brown's August 2008 “Guidelines for the Security and Non-Diversion of Marijuana Grown for Medical Use.”

Well aware of the confusing nature of medical-marijuana regulations, the California State Legislature, in 2003, enacted a statute requiring the state attorney general to adopt guidelines explaining to growers and patients exactly how to follow the law, and also instructing the police and district attorneys exactly how to enforce it. Five years later, Brown—a longtime politician who served as the governor of California for eight years, starting in 1974—published a document with enough protections to allow compassionate cultivators full peace of mind, while keeping out the corporations, agribusinesses and venture capitalists.

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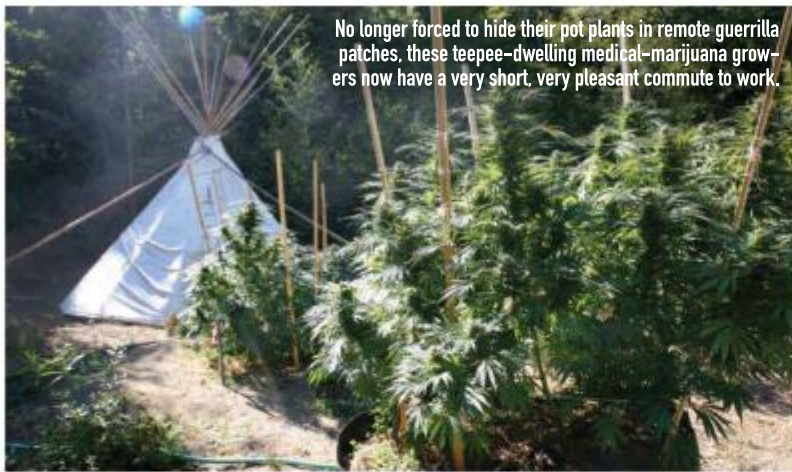


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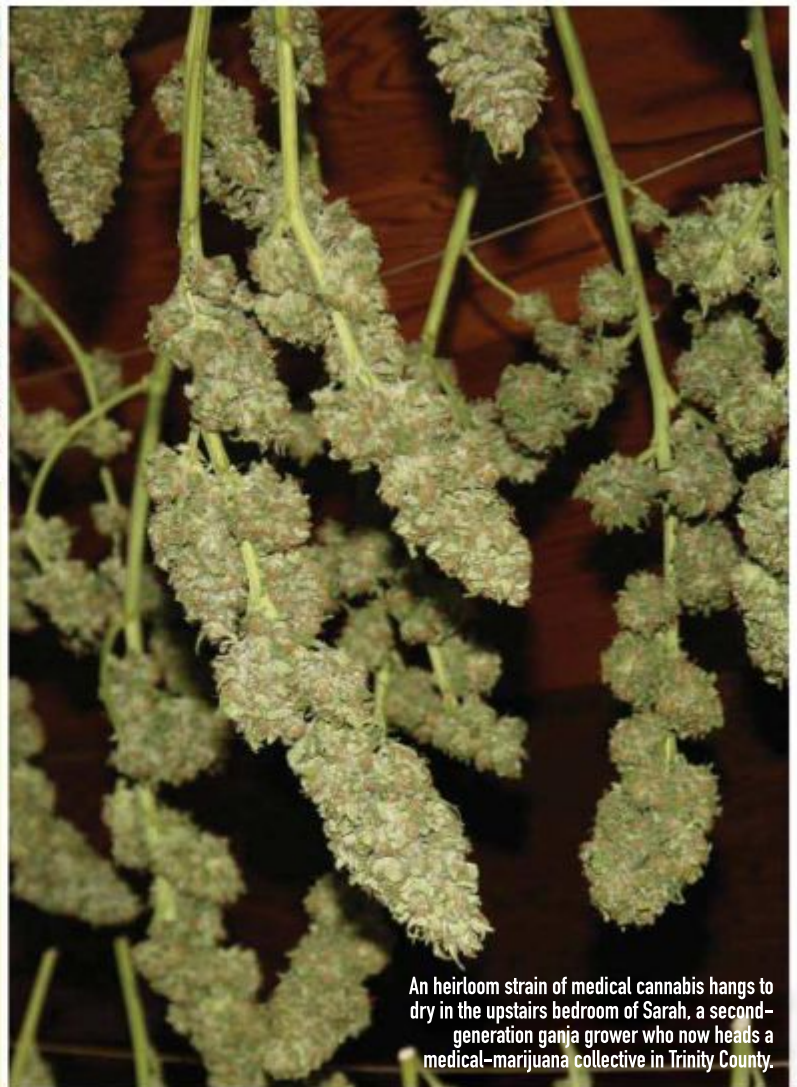


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No longer forced to hide their pot plants in remote guerrilla patches, these teepee-dwelling medical-marijuana growers now have a very short, very pleasant commute to work.



An heirloom strain of medical cannabis hangs to dry in the upstairs bedroom of Sarah, a second-generation ganja grower who now heads a medical-marijuana collective in Trinity County.

STATES WITH LEGALIZED MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Research your state and local laws carefully for the most up-to-date information, including how to qualify as a medical-marijuana user, how to obtain a medical ID card, and how to legally cultivate marijuana for medical patients. Or check with Americans for Safe Access (safeaccessnow.org), the largest organization in the nation dedicated solely to defending the rights of medical-cannabis patients and providers.

STATE	MED-POT LAW	PLANT LIMIT
ALASKA (1998)	Ballot Measure 8 (58%)	1 oz usable, 6 plants (3 mature, 3 immature)
CALIFORNIA (1996)	Proposition 215 (56%)	8 oz usable, 18 plants (6 mature, 12 immature)
COLORADO (2000)	Ballot Amendment 20 (54%)	2 oz usable, 6 plants (3 mature, 3 immature)
HAWAII (2000)	Senate Bill 862 (32-18, House; 13-12, Senate)	3 oz usable, 7 plants (3 mature, 4 immature)
MAINE (1999)	Ballot Question 2 (61%)	1.25 oz usable, 6 plants (3 mature, 3 immature)
MICHIGAN (2008)	Proposal 1 (63%)	2.5 oz usable, 12 plants
MONTANA (2004)	Initiative 148 (62%)	1 oz usable, 6 plants
NEVADA (2000)	Ballot Question 9 (65%)	1 oz usable, 7 plants (3 mature, 4 immature)
NEW MEXICO (2007)	Senate Bill 523 (36-31, House; 32-3, Senate)	6 oz usable, 16 plants (4 mature, 12 immature)
OREGON (1998)	Ballot Measure 67 (55%)	24 oz usable, 24 plants (6 mature, 18 immature)
RHODE ISLAND (2006)	Senate Bill 0710 (52-10, House; 33-1, Senate)	2.5 oz usable, 12 plants
VERMONT (2004)	Senate Bill 76 (22-7), House Bill 645 (82-59)	2 oz usable, 9 plants (2 mature, 7 immature)
WASHINGTON (1998)	Initiative 692 (59%)	24 oz usable, 15 plants

ALMOST LEGAL

ARIZONA (1996)

Ballot Proposition 200 (65%)

The state allows doctors to prescribe Schedule I controlled substances, including marijuana, to treat disease or relieve pain in seriously or terminally ill patients. Because it is "prescribed" and not "recommended," medical marijuana is not considered legal in Arizona.

MARYLAND (2003)

Senate Bill 502, Resolution #0756-2003 (approved 29-17)

Allows defendants being prosecuted for possession of marijuana to present evidence of medical necessity and physician approval. In such cases, the maximum fine is \$100.

Strongly opposed to the Vietnam War and an ardent environmentalist, Brown was dubbed "Governor Moonbeam" in the '70s for his liberal views. Today, he's looking like an early frontrunner to return to the governor's mansion in 2010. And while critics may argue that there's nothing wrong with making a profit on medical pot, the law (and perhaps basic morality) disagrees. Besides, true pot-profit seekers should be working full tilt for the complete legalization of recreational marijuana for adults. Until then, what's wrong with real ganja growers making "a living, not a killing," while the big-business bastards who fought against medical pot for years have to sit on the sidelines?

According to the guidelines, "nothing in Proposition 215 or the Medical Marijuana Program Act authorizes collectives, cooperatives or individuals to profit from the sale or distribution of marijuana." Which means that while you *can* receive "reasonable compensation" (i.e., a salary) for your work as part of a nonprofit pot collective or cooperative—and the California Board of Equalization requires you to charge a tax on any sales—you still can't make a single cent of profit on sinsemilla.

Put that in your pipe and smoke it, would-be pot profiteers! And while you're at it, give Jerry Brown's guidelines a careful read. Using precise legal language, Brown's 11-page document makes it clear that exactly three paths exist for those who wish to use, possess, cultivate, transport or distribute medical cannabis while still obeying the law. I recently journeyed to Northern California for a first-hand look at medical growers engaged in all three approaches.

Arriving in the glorious days just before harvest, Senior Cultivation Editor Danny Danko and I took a once-in-a-lifetime tour of the first NoCal medical-marijuana crop grown with the tacit approval of the federal government. What we discovered was a pot paradise, with longtime farmers bringing their cannabis out of its hiding spots in remote guerrilla patches and energy-intensive indoor growrooms, and returning the herb to its proper place in full sunshine, alongside every other eatable and/or medicinal plant in the garden.

The dream is real, my friends. According to the Attorney General of California, you can cultivate cannabis without becoming a criminal in one of the following three ways.

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These buds require a trellis to support their weight, as California's first outdoor crop of barely legal medical marijuana nears harvest.



A beautiful butterfly hovers above some gorgeous ganja.

'By working together, we're able to ensure a steady supply of the highest-quality cannabis imaginable, at a fraction of the cost of the black market.'

COLLECTIVES

Although California law doesn't define "collectives" as such, the attorney general's guidelines describe them as nonprofit organizations "jointly owned and operated by the members of the group," which "merely facilitate the collaborative efforts of patient and caregiver members—including the allocation of costs and revenues."

A collective need not be a "statutory entity"—one officially recognized by the state—but the guidelines do suggest that a collective "might have to organize as some form of business to carry out its activities." The advantages of a collective include the ability to pool resources and expertise to produce the best supply of medicine, at the lowest cost, for a closed group of patients. A collective can grow its own or hire a grower to cultivate for its members, but either way, all harvested cannabis must be shared within the collective.

"By working together, we're able to ensure a steady supply of the highest-quality cannabis imaginable—truly medicinal-grade plant matter—at a fraction of the cost of the black market," says Sarah, a member of a long-standing collective in Trinity County, as she rolls up some of the amazing outdoor organic she recently harvested on behalf of her 15-member organization. "I'd hate to be out here trying to compete with some giant, corporate-controlled marijuana factory farm. To me, that's almost more frightening than the cops."

With so many patients to supply, Sarah has dedicated herself full-time to growing ganja, drawing a salary from the collective that allows her to live comfortably on some of the most beautiful land in the world. Needless to say, Sarah's a happy woman.

PRIMARY CAREGIVER

According to the guidelines, a primary caregiver is "a person who is designated by a qualified patient and has consistently assumed responsibility for the housing, health or safety of the patient." A qualified medical-marijuana patient can serve as his or her own primary caregiver, and also can serve as the primary caregiver to one or more other qualified patients.

As stated earlier, selling pot for profit is strictly forbidden, but "a primary caregiver who receives compensation for actual expenses, including reasonable compensation incurred for services provided, to enable [a patient] to use marijuana ... shall not, on the sole basis of that fact, be subject to prosecution."

"I'm just trying to ensure that my uncle has safe access to the best medicine possible, at the lowest cost, and it turns out that growing your own is the ideal way to make that happen," explains Josh, a medical-marijuana primary caregiver in Humboldt County, while leading Danny and I on a guided tour of his small but beautiful six-plant medical garden, located just steps from the front door of his modest home in the hills. "With such a small number of plants to tend and no law-enforcement worries, I'm able to devote my total attention to cultivating the best strains at their highest potency, using the healthiest organic-growing methods."

Mixed in among vegetables, salad greens, fruit trees and companion plants designed to attract beneficial insects, Josh's Trainwreck plants represent not just legally grown marijuana, but also potentially life-saving medicine for his uncle, who uses cannabis to treat multiple sclerosis.

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- 1. "The Look"** - You want to make sure your cabinet looks like one, not like a futuristic time machine with controls on the front. Make sure it is 100% light tight, 16 gauge "Cool-Running" metal, and looks like it belongs in your house.
- 2. Dimensions** - Be aware of misleading pictures. Realize that 24 inch deep cabs grow 33% more than generic 18 inch deep ones. The major factor of how much you grow is by Height, Width, AND Depth of your cabinet.
- 3. Airflow** - Lights are PROPERLY air-cooled by bringing air in from outside the chamber, then pushed out as well. Some only bring air from inside the unit itself, then through the light. You do not want this. Also, make sure your cab is "Cross Corner Ventilated" AND has an adjustable internal circulation fan. The output air should go out through a professionally made carbon filter.
- 4. Ease and Expertise** - Make sure your system is user friendly and the company knows what they are talking about. Your cabinet should come and look professionally assembled, automated, and easy to grow.
- 5. Net trellis and adjustable lights** - you grow up to 50% more when using a net trellis. A bonus is if both the light and veg. chamber is adjustable to allow for maximum height and lumen intensity.
- 6. Comes with Everything** - Let them shop for you. You want every possible thing you need to start growing the day you get it, including an automated Cloning Machine, nutrients, DVD, TDS meter, PH kit, Make sure it is fully assembled, automated, and ready to grow with ease and confidence.
- 7. Good Warranty** - Make sure the company backs your investment with at least a 3 year warranty and excellent lifetime customer support - for free.
- 8. Made in USA** - That is if you are in the US. For obvious reasons, such as supporting the economy, it also means not worrying with US Border Customs and such when dealing with your warranty and replaceable parts.
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HIP HOT TIPS



By stringing their dog line through the center of the garden, these clever growers hope to deter any would-be ganja thieves, known locally as “rippers.” In this brave new world of legal marijuana, rippers have replaced the cops as the worst-case scenario.



These 100% organic outdoor plants will likely yield nearly 10 pounds of medicine each.



Wouldn't it be great to wake up nice and early and water a beautiful purple plant like this one?

COOPERATIVES

More strictly defined by the guidelines than a collective, a cooperative “must file articles of incorporation with the state and conduct its business for the mutual benefit of its members.” Cooperatives are also required to register under the Corporations or Food and Agriculture Code.

Much like food co-ops, agricultural co-ops and other non-marijuana-related businesses that adopt the model, a medical-cannabis co-op must be democratically controlled by its members and must also be nonprofit, with the earnings and savings of the business “used for the general welfare of its members, or equitably distributed to its members.” There’s a lot more official paperwork involved than with a collective—a record-keeping burden that offers both advantages and disadvantages.

“We decided to form a cooperative because it seemed like the best way to keep on top of all our transactions, including expenses, dues, harvests and distribution, so that we can constantly ensure that we’re in compliance with the law,” says Barry, a longtime grower in Lake County, as we navigate the epicly winding roads that connect two of his collective’s four distinct gardens. “Just last year, we were following the exact same rules, but we were totally dependent of the approval of local law enforcement and the whims of the federal government. Now, it’s different—we just have to keep all of our files in order.”

Barry smiles as we bring the car to a stop within view of a massive greenhouse overflowing with budding monster ganja trees. With “plant limits” restricting medical-marijuana patients and providers to only so many plants at a time, growers have every incentive to cultivate the biggest buds possible under the sun.

Meanwhile, Barry tells us about a recent visit from the local sheriff. Four officers arrived at this remote outpost on ATV’s, sniffing around to make sure all the plants were legal and accounted for by the collective. Barry showed them the laminated doctors’ recommendations posted next to the garden, took them on a plant-by-plant inspection tour, and even offered up some homegrown cantaloupe.

“Man, three of those guys were super-nice,” Barry recalls. “The other one was kind of stand-offish, you know what I mean?”

Coming from a state with no laws to protect even the sickest patients with even the smallest amounts of cannabis, Danny and I listen to Barry’s lament—that one of the four cops inspecting his massive pot plants wasn’t “super-nice”—and it strikes us as kind of funny. It’s like we’re visiting a different country ... one that treats its citizens with a lot more respect. 🌿

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Champaign-Urbana: Ashley Barys abarys2@uiolinois.edu 847.707.6690

Charlotte: Matthew Harrington ncccpmain@aol.com 704-817-9441 www.ncccp.org

Chicago: Richey richey.gupta@gmail.com 847-275-0473 or 847 341 0591 danline@illinoisnorml.org Federal Plaza May 1st @ NOON.

Chico: Dinah Coffman 530-345-1997 greenindica@live.com www.pot-party.com 2:15 PM at the Free speech Area @ the U.

Christchurch: Blair Anderson mildgreens@gmail.com Mild Green Media Centre ph: +64 3 389-4065 cell: 027 2657219

Cincinnati: Happy Hempstress hempstress@hemprock.com 513-684-HEMP <http://www.hemprock.com>

Cleveland: Laura Kosa laurasmokedout@gmail.com 440-282-4420 www.clevelandhiohiojuanmarch.com

Colorado Springs: Dr. Robert Melamede doctorbob@cannabuzz.net 719 641-1188 Acacia Park, 12-5.

Columbia: Scot Lauer 309-242-0200 or danviets@justice.com (573) 443-6866 Peace Park 2 PM - dusk

Columbus: Chris Ryan old_jack_tar@hotmail.com (614) 551-0846 4:20 PM, Corner of W. 17th Ave & N. High St. (Near OSU).

Comodoro Rivadavia: Eloy escasezencomodoro@gmail.com www.escasezencomodoro.blogspot.com Argentina, 700 in '09.

Cordoba: mike bifari mikebifari@hotmail.com 00543548 1556747 www.de-verdamper.com Edith Moreno cortandoflores@yahoo.com.ar

Denver: Tiny Martinez denvergmm@hotmail.com 720-365-8187 www.myspace.com/denvergmm Sunday May 2, 4PM State Capitol.

Detroit: Bob 734-697-3947 or Paul paul@detroitliberation.org 313-622-3429 www.detroitliberation.org Hempapalooza! Grand Circus Park.

Dinuba: Ayesha Yrigollen rockinchic.27@yahoo.com 559-397-8370 <http://Dnepropetrovskhttp://community.livejournal.com/legalize/ua/334501.html>

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Dover: Richard J. Schimelfennig hempman@verizon.net 302-793-0716 High noon, Patio behind Legislative Hall.

Dunedin: Abe Gray graab419@student.otago.ac.nz The Octagon Noon.

Edmonton: Todd Todd@Edmonton420.ca (780)910-0387 <http://www.Edmonton420.ca> @ Meet Edmonton City Hall 2:00 to 4:20.

Eugene: Jim jimgreigads@yahoo.com or Dan 541 517-0957 www.willamettevalleyNORML.org

Flagstaff: Kevin McCoy burtorider99@msn.com 928-814-3237.

Flint: Braxton Koch bromb1p@aol.com 810-869-4653 Downtown Flint City @ the RiverBank Park.

Florianopolis: pedro.luz.89@gmail.com or jean.pinhoheiro.rhastaff@hotmail.com +55 47 369 20 43

Frankfurt: Ingrid (49) 177 34 67 861 ingrid.wunn@gmx.de or <http://www.hanf-initiative.de> 80 in '09.

Fr. Bragg: Bruce 707-961-6099 or Verge contactverge@yahoo.com or leave a message at 707-877-1159 Rally at Town Hall.

Fr. Collins: Tim Gordon FRNORML@hotmail.com 970-217-0575 www.frontrangenorml.org Civic Center Park, May 8.

Gainesville: Anthony Doe cliv.anthony@gmail.com 2PM Rep. Larry Crebil's office — 1911 SW 34 Street, Gainesville, FL 32608-1201

Garberville: Paul Encimer paulencimer@hotmail.com 707-923-4488 or Glenn 707-923-9147 Gather noon under the town clock in Garberville.

Green Bay: Chi Edwards wldragons@rocketmail.com 920-5444

Hachita: Bill Gallagher luxeaire@gmail.com 505 436 2250

Halifax: Debbie Stultz-Giffin chair@mummm.ca 902-824-0321 www.mummm.ca 300 people in '08! 1-5 PM Halifax N. Common

Hamilton: Max Coyle hamilton@norml.org.nz www.norml.org.nz/events Noon - 4:20, Memorial Park.

Helena: Mike Gray dracaerys@yahoo.com 406-449-2644.

Hilo: Roger Christie rogerchristie@gmail.com (808) 217-9352 www.thc-ministry.org 10 AM Hilo Bayfront Soccer Field.

Holland: Matt Schacht 616-994-3054 Skate Park 4:20.

Homer: Wes Schacht 907-235-3458/299-1866 K-Bay Coffeshop, Noon.

Indianapolis: Neil Smith or Geri Twitty hionthehill@sbcglobal.net (317) 972-4455 High on the Hill and Indiana NORML are co-sponsors.

Istanbul: Serkan Akkaya noppah@msn.com

Joao Pessoa: joao.pessoa@marchadamaconha.org (03183) 86301782

Johannesburg: Chris J gmm@norml.org.za and wired@weed.co.za cel: +27847362270

Kamenets-Podolsky: (Ukraine) www.legalize.in.ua http://community.livejournal.com/legalize_ua

Kansas City: info@kcnorml.org 1-888-KCN-ORML or Heath Poland (Ext. 423) - <http://www.missourihipmop.com>

Katmandu: Sujani Jirel sujaniann@gmail.com Mbl: +977-9808056616

Kiev: deadidona@gmail.com or -(+3 80 63 478 50 24) <http://nesam.in.ua> http://livejournal.com/community/legalize_ua March fr. Sofievskaya sq.

Kokomo: Gary 765-868-0213, Elvie's, 1300 W. Mulberry St. 1 PM.

La Laguna: armiche@cultivadoredeparia.es or info@cannarias.com Tfn: 617830981 www.cannarias.com www.toros/showthread.php?t=6163

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria: Juan Carlos González Martín info@cannarias.com Tfn: 617830981 www.cannarias.com

Las Vegas: beth@nevadanorml.org 702-768-7288 www.nevadanorml.org

Lawton: Hank Baca dankhank@yahoo.com 580-248-3201 Lefkosa-Nicosia: petros@cyprus.org.net 357-22-675-250 Semi-public event.

Lincoln: Michael mindtripperr@yahoo.com 402-450-4261 4 pm, Neighbors Park, 30th & Randolph.

Lisbon: Pedro Pombreiro marchaglobalmarijuana@gmail.com +351 926 026 302 <http://mmlisboa.org> March May 9th.

Los Angeles: Akil akilek@yahoo.com 323-799-8409 or blackwebguide@yahoo.com or Kyle 818-894-6227 www.hempishep.org Noon, May 9th, corner of Adams & Crenshaw.

Lyon-Villeurbanne: "Le Feeling" - le-feeling@live.nl - feeling@live.nl c/o Matagne Syllix syllix.m@orange.fr +33(0)676139905

Madison: madison@winorml.org or bmase@tds.net 608-442-8830 <http://www.madisonnorml.org> / Assemble 11 AM, State Capitol steps.

Madrid: amec@amec.org.es +34 91 5303364: Aranza www.amec.org.es Medicine Hat: (403) 526-9070 1:30 PM march to Medicine Hat City Hall

Mexico City: info@ameca.org.mx, amecannabis@yahoo.com, gregorio_samsa@hotmail.com +52 55-2166-6034 www.ameca.org.mx/

Miami: Dail NORMLSFLA@gmail.com or dailadelman@yahoo.com 305 401 5776 or "Sheila Siegel" sheilate@comcast.net

Miamitown: hempstress@hemprock.com 513-684-HEMP www.hemprock.com Riverfront West Pavilion 7:30pm, Saturday May 1.

Minneapolis: Chris Wright wright33@yahoo.com 651-280-7922 Noon-time rally at Washburn Fair-Oaks Park 2PM march.

Missoula: Freedom Fighter sisterearth420@gmail.com or norml@montanannorml.com March begins at 4:20 at Jacob's Island/Bark Park.

Montevideo: Ariel De Los Santos unomasnomata@hotmail.com www.liberaciondelcannabis.org/

Montreal: Boris St. Maurice Boris@mapinc.org or Chantal 514.842.4900 or Adam (514)830-1331 www.norml.ca May 8th.

Moscow: Adam Assenberg massenberg420@yahoo.com 509-397-3252 www.marijuanafortification.org 2 PM from Hemp Fest site to City Hall.

Nashville: "Howie & Marijuana Leinoff" marijuana@hotmail.com (615) ACT-HIGH or 228-4044 www.marijuana.com www.punkenstein.com

Newark: "Richard J. Schimelfennig" hempman@verizon.net 302-793-0716 4:20 PM, Parking Lot, Main & Chapel St.

New Orleans: Ashley mjofefearless@gmail.com 504-710-9128. High Noon, next to Cafe DuMonde-Décarat & St. Ann-March from Jax Sq. down Royal to Frenchmen's St. Meet @ Cafe Brazil 4:20

New York: Dana 212-677-7180 dana@cures-not-wars.org www.worldwidemarijuanamarch.org Cures not Wars, 9 Bleeker St, NYC 10012. 11 am Mayday Washington Square Park; parade route and destination TBA.

Nimbin: acirm@nimbinaustralia.com ph: 61 296 891842 www.nimbin-marijuana-march.420-web-hosting.com www.nimbinmardigrass.com

Odessa: absolutely1984@list.ru http://community.livejournal.com/legalize_ua/333443.html http://bg.liga.net/www/images/gmm_odessa_bg.jpg

Ogden: Happy Gorder utahliberty@yahoo.com 801-393-2806 & JT 801-991-0852 Noon, 25 th & Washington, May 1.

Olympia: James Baglio 360-915-3765 Saturday, May 9, Statehouse Rally.

Omaha: Melanie 402-415-7373 mmelz5@yahoo.com makepotlegal555.org 1-5 Gene Leahy Mall @ 13th and Farnam.

Orlando: Tyler president@normlclm.com 727-822-9511 www.normlclm.com or Josh/PUFMM 727-735-8470 www.pufmm.org/

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Paduac: Paula pioneerpaula@mchsi.com 270 703 5283 www.myspace.com/kentuckyfarijuanamarch Meet Dolly McNutli Plaza-March NOON.

Paia: Brian Murphy info@patientswithouthtime.com 808 579 8320 www.mccfda.com & www.patientswithouthtime.com High noon.

Palm Springs: aurora.maldonado@yahoo.com (760)409-9414

Paris: FARID Ghelhouèche farid@no-log.org 061-481-5679 www.myspace.com/farid711@aol.com www.mmpcparis.info

Penitenti: astewart@img.net 250-770-8171 www.valleyhemp.com 2 PM Gyo Park

Peoria: richrawlings@usmiparty.com 309-839-1976 309-648-2525 <http://usmiparty.com> March from County Court to Federal Court. 2 to 4:20 PM

Philadelphia: Rob Dougherty chair@phillynorml.org 215-586-3483 or Derek Rosenzweig co-chair@phillynorml.org www.pa4mmj.org

Phoenix: Kathy & Nancy free420arizona@aol.com 480-892-0993 www.phoenixnorml.org <http://myspace.com/phoenixsarch>

Pittsburgh: Benjamin Wilhelm info@wpnorml.org 724-601-7510

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How-To Hydro

Easy-to-understand basics that will get you growing without soil. By Nico Escondido

Just because we're in an economic depression doesn't mean anyone should quit smoking pot. (In fact, it's on the rise.) So why would it mean that anyone should stop—or not *start*—growing it, too?

Of course, buying a \$50 bag of reefer doesn't seem quite as hard on the wallet as buying hundreds or even thousands of dollars' worth of grow equipment. But to be honest, it doesn't have to be that way. Anybody can grow pot on the cheap, and you can even do it hydroponically. Assuming you have core knowledge of what hydroponic growing is and some regular household junk to draw from, you can rig up a homemade (albeit fairly ghetto) hydro system for next to nothing!

Getting Down the Basics

To start, we need to have a simple understanding of what hydroponic cultivation is all about. In short, hydroponics—or water culture—is the soilless growth of plants. In hydroponic systems, plants are cultivated by placing the roots in a liquid nutrient solution rather than soil. Oftentimes, the plant's root system is suspended in different types of media that are then injected or flooded with the nutrient solution.

This is a very important aspect of hydro to understand, because in hydroponic growing, the key factor is really the air surrounding the roots, not the nutrients or water. Many people forget that although plants breathe in carbon dioxide (CO₂), their roots breathe in oxygen. So hydroponic growing is just as much about supercharging the root system with oxygen as it is about supplying nutrients and water, if not more so. Hydroponics offers an advantage in this arena because the roots are not smothered beneath a lot of soil, and air can easily permeate the mediums often used in hydro systems.

The medium that holds the roots and the rest of the plant can be one of any number of sterile materials. Most of these mediums are cheap and easy to find in hardware stores or plant nurseries—even pet shops. Clay pebbles, rockwool and lava rocks are some examples of inexpensive and easy-to-find mediums to grow plants in. Soilless mixes that look much like rich outdoor earth, but are really peat- or sphagnum-based mixtures, can also work in certain types of systems.

Doing hydroponics the right way will result in huge, dense nuggets like this Super Silver Haze being grown in Amsterdam.

Easy and Inexpensive Store-Bought Systems

Before we get into how to make your own homemade hydro system, here is a brief overview of the most popular hydroponic grow systems on the market today. These systems can be relatively inexpensive when growing for personal consumption and utilizing the smaller versions.

Flood-and-Drain (or Ebb-and-Flow) Systems

Flood-and-drain systems are probably the easiest hydroponic system to use. They consist of simple, user-friendly parts and function exactly as the name dictates: They flood root systems with nutrient-rich water and then quickly drain it away.

These systems utilize either a tray or a simple table to hold plants, with a reservoir usually sitting directly beneath. Water is pumped from the reservoir into the tray, which fills with water and floods the root zones with nutrients. The water is then either drained back into the reservoir and reused or drained directly to waste, never to be seen again. Most growers opt to recycle their nutrient solution a few times before replacing it with fresh water and nutrients.

In a flood-and-drain system, growers can use a variety of grow mediums to house their plants. The most popular choice in this system are netted pots, which have mostly open sides and bottoms that allow for easy soaking and draining. These pots are filled with clay pebbles or hardened expanded clay (HEC), which look like brown or red clay marbles and are made by a few different companies. The HEC usually holds the plugs in which the seedlings or cuttings were first started, but once they become acclimated to the hydro system, the roots will begin to grow out over the HEC and into the bottom of the tray. Once the nutrient solution has drained, the roots are left with an abundance of air for oxygen consumption. Trays are commonly flooded two to three times a day for a few minutes at a time, depending on what stage of growth the garden is in.

This emitter system saturates Rockwool cubes sitting on trays of soilless mix for several minutes at a time...



... these trays then drain-to-waste via a trough placed at the edge of the table.

Nutrient-Film Technique Systems

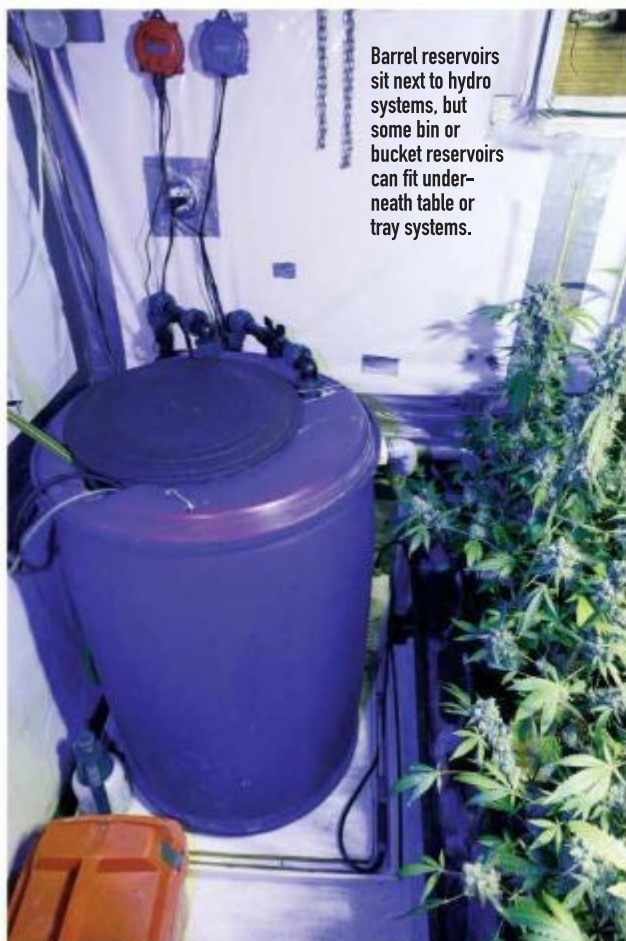
Nutrient-film technique, or NFT, is another popular and easy-to-use system for hydroponic growing. In this scenario, a thin film of water is run past the roots, usually on a tilted table or tray for easy drainage. The roots—most commonly hanging out of netted pots—sop up this nutrient-rich water, which is pumped to the grow table from a reservoir.

In NFT systems, nutrient solution can either be recycled or drained to waste, and there's a lot more flexibility for growers in determining the feeding schedule for their garden. Because the root zones are not completely inundated with water, they have less chance to drown. The thin film of water running over them also moves a lot of air past the roots, carrying valuable oxygen molecules for uptake. Because of this, growers using NFT can choose to run a constant flow of water over the roots, knowing that plenty of oxygen is still provided to them. Most NFT cultivators, however, choose to run multiple feeding cycles per day, sometimes for as long as 30 minutes at a time. This largely depends upon the strain being grown.

As long as ample oxygen is being provided, root systems in NFT set-ups can stay very compact, as they do not need to search very far for nutrition. The top sections of the root zone can breathe, while the bottom sections dip into the thin film of nutrient water, sopping up food. It is important to remember that when using NFT or any hydroponic system, for that matter, plants need more air than water. One of the most common dangers of hydroponic growing is a lack of oxygen to the roots. The roots should always be bright white; any sign of browning roots is a sure indication that they're being deprived of air.



This Strawberry Cough x Deep Chunk plant nears harvest in a hydroponic system using pebbles and trellis for support.



Barrel reservoirs sit next to hydro systems, but some bin or bucket reservoirs can fit underneath table or tray systems.

Drip or Sprinkler Systems

Drip or sprinkler systems are slightly more complicated to use, but only because they involve a few more parts than an ebb-and-flow or NFT system. In drip or sprinkler systems, growers rely on drip emitters or spray nozzles to keep the root zone constantly moist.

Plant roots can be suspended in netted pots or held in place by rockwool. Rockwool is the more common choice when using drip emitters, and netted pots are more common when using sprayers. Rockwool absorbs and holds the constant drip produced by the emitters much better than clay pellets, while clay pellets in a net pot expose the roots better for more direct spraying.

In both cases, however, tiny water droplets not only feed nutrients and H₂O to the plants, but also move a supply of air over the roots between droplets. In drip systems, emitters are usually set to a constant, very sluggish flow of water; thin spaghetti-tube lines run to the rockwool cubes holding the plants. Emitters are easily held in rockwool by tiny stakes, and the constant drip keeps the cubes permanently saturated with water.

Similarly, in spray systems, tiny lines also carry nutrient water to the spray nozzles that are attached to net pots. These systems are set to a specific schedule of spraying that keeps the roots zone perpetually moist. It should be noted that spray systems usually require higher water pressure in the lines and thus more powerful pumps. Nozzle heads are also very delicate and can easily get clogged by nutrients. Make sure your nutrients can be completely dissolved in reservoirs before trying to use them in spray systems. Unfortunately, organic nutrients usually cause the most problems with spray nozzles.

Homemade Hydro Options

You may have noticed by now that all hydro systems are basically the same in theory and carry only slight variations in functionality. They all utilize the same core components, making them fairly customizable for each individual's situation and preferences. But many of us forget that this also enables us to easily construct hydroponic gardens from scratch in our very own home.

It's always best to think through your options entirely before deciding on the set-up that's best for you. Important considerations to make before beginning are the types of genetics you want to grow, the amount of space you have, and the type of grow medium that is best suited to your skills and environment.

In this example, we will assume an indoor garden with a short, squat *indica* strain, as this is usually the most logical choice for indoor growers. We will also choose expanded clay marbles (HEC) as the grow medium. The HEC will suspend a starter plug (either rockwool or peat pellets are usable for this project) in place.

We will also focus on an active hydro system, in which the water is being moved throughout the system by means of a pump. Although slightly more complicated than passive systems, active hydro systems are one of the more popular choices among growers and offer excellent results.



Thin spaghetti-lines plug directly in grow mediums to feed root zones.

Glue, Hose & Soda Bottles

We here at HIGH TIMES recognize that the following examples are not necessarily environmentally ideal. We encourage readers to remember that, with a little creativity, it's easy to find "green" or organic solutions to any project!

Because we're trying to be cost-conscious in this scenario, the system that gets built will largely depend on the materials that you already have at your disposal. The four basic components of an active hydro set-up include something to hold the water (a reservoir), something to move the water (a pump), something to catch/drain the water (a bin or tray), and something to hold the plants (pots, bins and

medium). Of course, there are many variations for each of these components, but the point here is to keep it simple.

The ultimate goal of this system is to flood your plants' root systems with nutrient-enriched water twice a day for two to three minutes at a time. The plants can be in net pots or any similar homemade container that allows for fast and easy draining. Popular household items to use in lieu of store-bought pots might be small buckets with holes drilled around the sides and bottom or—our personal favorite—inverted plastic soda bottles. (Two-liter ones work best!) Soda bottles are best used when combining homemade pots with your set-up's water-circulation system. This can also let you effectively combine some of the basic components of your system, further simplifying the process. With a little luck and some imagination, home growers can construct their own hydro system for approximately \$150 (and hopefully even less if you've got most of it lying around).

First, look for a large bin or tray from your garage. If you don't have any luck finding one, you can easily buy an inexpensive trough from a garden center or purchase a Rubbermaid bin from your local drugstore. You can also build your own tray by constructing a wooden frame and lining it with thick (2 to 3 mm) plastic. You'll want this tray to be fairly deep (approximately 18 to 24 inches) and of a decent length, depending on how many plants you plan to grow (figure at least 1 foot in length for each plant). The beauty of this system is that it combines two components of your system into one, allowing your tray (or water-catching device) to simultaneously act as your reservoir.

Next, look around for used soda bottles. Strip off

the labels and cut them in half, discarding the bottom halves for recycling. Clean the top halves thoroughly. These *inverted* bottle tops will be your grow pods (or net pots), and they will need to be connected with either tubing, hose, or a hard/rigid tubing (try to avoid PVC) or clay piping. All of these are inexpensive and can

be found at your local hardware store, but rigid piping works best. If you have the hose or piping laying around already, all you'll need to purchase are a few T-joints to attach to the bottlenecks so that the pods can be connected to each other.

Look for a non-toxic glue or epoxy to bind the bottle tops to your T-joints. Once you have all your grow pods on T-joints, connect the joints to each other using your rigid piping (and be sure to leave at least 1 foot of space between the grow pods). Place this unit at the bottom of your tray and secure it so that it stands upright. This can be done using bricks, or else by tying strings across the top of the reservoir to hold the pods in place.



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- P9 SUGAR BABE
- P10 SWISS BLISS
- P11 MAGIC B

SUBCOOL

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- SU2 SPACE QUEEN
- SU3 JACKS CLEANER 2
- SU4 JACK THE RIPPER
- SU5 THIRD DIMENSION
- SU6 AGENT ORANGE
- SU7 DEEP PURPLE
- SU8 JILLY BEAN
- SU9 QUERKLE
- SU10 THE FLAV

WILD ROSE

- W1 5-STAR
- W2 ASSHOLE
- W3 BLUE MOUNTAIN
- W4 JAMAICAN
- W5 COLOMBIAN GOLD
- W6 ROSEBUD
- W7 SKUNK INDICA
- W8 SKUNK X JAMAICA
- W9 SS EARLY BUD
- W9 WILD WEST

SERIOUS SEEDS

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- SE2 BUBBLEGUM
- SE3 KALI MIST
- SE4 WHITE RUSSIAN
- SE5 AK 47

DUTCH PASSION

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- DP2 POWER PLANT
- DP3 OASIS
- DP4 CAL. ORANGE

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These clones were originally rooted in starter plugs and then buried in HEC pebbles for use in this tray system.

Pumps, Pebbles & Plants

Now that you have the core of your system constructed, the end is in sight. The next step is to complete the water-circulation system. The base of your grow pods will serve as half of your water-delivery system. All that's missing is a power supply to actively move the nutrient solution from the reservoir up into your grow pods; a simple garden or fish-tank pump will suffice. Once the water is being pumped to the grow pods (i.e., the inverted soda bottles), the pods will fill up with water and overflow back into the reservoir. You may decide to cut extra holes just below the top of your pods to help facilitate continuous circulation and drainage.

Finding and connecting the right water pump can be the trickiest part of construction. Make sure the pump is strong enough to move the amount of water you plan to use in your reservoir. In some instances, you may need to get a decent store-bought pump, which will always be the most expensive item that a grower needs to buy when building a homemade hydro system. Still, a good pump for a three-to-five-plant hydro set-up should cost around \$50.

When connecting the pump outlet to the base of your grow-pod piping, you will need to find adapter tubing. Most hardware stores have multiple-sized selections of flexible tubing available for only a few cents per foot. Take your pump and piping to the store to see what size fits and whether or not you'll need any other adapters. Plus it's useful to remember that heat expands and cold constricts, which may help you make a nice friction fit without the use of any glues or resins.

Once you have your grow pods firmly affixed to your reservoir bin and

have the pump connected and your water-circulation system complete, fill your pods with clay pebbles. Make sure the pods stay stable with the added weight. You are now ready for your trial runs. Fill your reservoir with enough water so that it covers the pump and all of the T-joints by a few inches. Turn on your pump and watch your grow pods fill with water, making any necessary adjustments (as suggested earlier) to improve water circulation. Holes may need to be made just below the top of the grow pods to aid in water movement, as sitting water is always to be avoided.

Now shut the pump down and watch to see if the water drains completely from your grow pods. If not, you may need to make a very small drainage hole at the bottom of the pods. This hole should be small enough not to leak too much during the water cycles, but big enough to drain the bottom after each watering. A small wall timer is all you need to set the water cycles during the day.

To start, when plants are young, use two daily waterings of one to two minutes apiece. As the plants grow and flowering is induced, heavier waterings with added nutrients will become necessary. Plants should be started (either as seedlings or clones) in small plugs, either rockwool or peat pellets, that can be easily inserted into the grow pods and held by clay pebbles. The plugs should be inserted into the pods once the roots begin to show at the bottoms of the plugs.

Remember to stay safe—and, most importantly, have fun. Experimenting with do-it-yourself grow projects is an excellent way to truly learn about cannabis cultivation. Good luck! 🌿



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Purple Wreck from DNA Genetics grown hydroponically fills out and yields well.

ghost in the machine

After years of practicing with smaller grows and reading as much as I could about growing herb, I finally decided that it was time to go for the gusto. I put together a plan for a decent-sized space that would allow me and my partners not only to get out of debt, but also to accumulate enough to make a future for ourselves and our families.

Story by the Ghost

A level canopy ensures that all plant tops receive enough light.



my philosophy for future farmers

Growing weed is not an endeavor to be taken lightly. Our sacred herb is more than just a means of getting high or even making a steady income. I think it's very important to first discuss the concept of energy and how it relates to everything in the universe.

Obviously, there are many different forms of energy: potential, kinetic, light, sound, etc. What I am most interested in is the concept of energy itself. I'm no physicist, but when you break it down into layman's terms, it all boils down to one thing: The entire universe is composed of energy, both positive and negative. It is the glue of everything in existence, all the way down to the atomic level.

Now I could probably go in a million directions on this subject, but suffice it to say that positive energy has a profound effect on growing plants. I don't know of any scientific studies, but speaking from personal experience, I've found that an abundance of positive energy can help a novice grower overcome many obstacles along the way. It can also help a master grower achieve phenomenal results with a minimal amount of quality effort. Before you embark on any journey in life—and especially before you start growing herb—make sure you take a good look at what's motivating you. If your energy isn't right, then no matter what you do, you'll always have problems in the growroom—and everywhere else in your life, for that matter.

in search of genetics

I opted to make the pilgrimage to Amsterdam and score some serious genetics right from the source. With as much positive energy as I could generate (and a health dose of 'shrooms), I went on my search for what I needed to realize my goals. I followed all the signs and finally wound up in a small, well-lit shop on St. Nicholasstraat talking to a wonderful woman named Kim, the wife of the "A" in DNA Genetics. She suggested that I come back and speak with her husband about the different technical aspects of each strain.

I made it back the next day, and the next, and the next. Turns out not only do these cats have some of the choicest genetics on the planet, but they're knowledgeable, friendly and love to party ... my kind of people! After a sacred blessing ceremony in which we blew smoke from the bong over all the little seed packs I was taking home (bundled so neatly by Kim), I made it back to the States and got down to business.

In order to save time, I opted for feminized versions of three different strains: LA Confidential, Chocolope and Purple Wreck. My return to the States was timed to coincide with the new moon, as I only like to crack beans or take cuttings at that time of the month. After a bunch of pinching and pruning, I wound up with a set of mother plants that would yield over 1,000 female clones.

As for my technique, I use Rootone rooting powder and rockwool slabs. I mix some fresh Olivia's cloning solution with water and correct the pH to about 5.9 for the clones. Then I soak my slabs, take my cuttings, and don't mess with them for about 10 days (except to lift the dome covers for a few minutes each day). I prefer to take longer cuttings and use a tall dome cover for my trays. After 10 days, I check my starter cubes for roots on the bottom. Once I see a white, fuzzy mass of roots beginning to emerge, I transplant the 1-inch cubes into my chosen medium for the vegetative stage.

I chose to run a system that was easy to set up, easy to maintain and had a large capacity. My partner and I decided that a Sea of Green method, in conjunction with some serious trellising, would do the trick for the Purple Wreck clones. In hindsight, I probably should've gone with the Chocolope, but whatever

sour grapes

CHOCOLOPE
HIGH TIMES



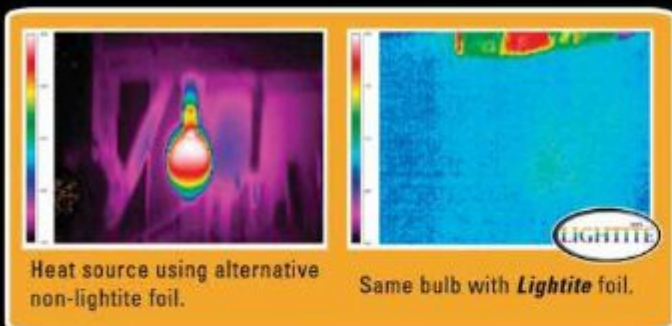




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Two grow tables side by side flood and drain nutrients directly to plant roots.

the ghost's system

We used 3/4-inch plywood with two-by-fours screwed around the edges to make the tables. Two tables covered with a double layer of 4-millimeter plastic sheeting, each measuring 32 feet long, were the end result, with one side being left open and slightly lower on the sawhorses to allow for gravitational draining. We used 150-gallon industrial reservoirs to collect the runoff from the tables, while heavy-duty submersible sump pumps with a length of garden hose supplied the tables with a constant flow of nutrient solution.

Since we'd secured a commercial location with an absentee landlord, electricity was not an issue for us, although we tried to conserve as much as possible. In spite of this, many of the pumps and fans ran 24/7, including the exhaust fans, which were ducted directly to each reflector.

I used 6-inch cubes to eliminate the need for another transplanting stage (which usually involves going from a 3-inch cube to a slab), and also to allow a little more mobility on the tables when separating the plants by height or for maintenance issues such as flushing. The 6-inch cubes allowed the little clones to really root into something substantial, while at the same time allowing me to move individual plants where I thought they'd do best. During the vegetative stage, I ran General Hydroponics nutrients at a ratio of 1:1:1 for the first week (around 800 to 1,000 ppm). I also topped off the reservoirs with fresh water every couple of days and readjusted the pH—I always like to make sure that my pH level stays between 5.8 and 6.2, but have generally found that most do well at 5.9 to 6.0. Once the clones show an initial spurt of growth (say 2 to 4 inches), I bump up my nutes to a 3:2:1 ratio (Gro, Micro and Bloom, respectively) and the ppm to around 1,200 to 1,400. If you ever notice any signs of stress, check your nutes—always flush and make a fresh batch if you're in doubt, and progressively push the ppm higher until you see the plants respond. I like to flush my plants at least once a week throughout the entire grow.

We used 12 fixtures in total: ten 600-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights and two 1,000-watt HPS digital ballasts with vented hoods equals six for each table, plus a 1,000-cfm fan hooked to a carbon filter for each run. Large fans suspended from the ceiling kept the airflow right, and before flowering, every main stem was stripped for clones. When I prune before flowering, I like to prune all the way to the tips, leaving just three or four nodes on each stem; it helps get bigger colas and improves ventilation under the canopy. Besides, the pheno of Purple Wreck we wound up with tended to run a bit once it flowered, so there was always plenty o' bud! We rarely had a problem with heat or humidity in this space, although we did need to run heaters in the coldest months to keep things from freezing at night. On the hottest days of summer, we had 8,000 watts burning and never used the AC once.

Volume is the key to proper ventilation, and you need large-capacity exhaust fans with quality carbon filters to handle the job. Our set-up used a 1,000-cfm squirrel cage on the end of each run of lights, with a filter routed to a "T" where another 1,000-cfm fan exhausted the air for each. I bought an 8-inch T-duct at Home Depot and put it all together in a couple of hours, so anyone can do it with enough patience and sufficient doobs.



Cover rockwool cubes to avoid mold.

hit it and quit it

Instead of a continual harvest, we chose to bang out huge amounts at once and then take a short break in between crops to chill, make hash and go on vacation. (It's very important to keep your positive vibe!) Once we induced flowering, I went back to a 1:1:1 ratio on the nutes, but kept the ppm higher this time—say around 1,200 to 1,300 for about a week or so. On the next flush, I used a 3:2:1 ratio again, only this time it was Bloom, Micro and Gro. You can run your ppm as high as the plants can stand, as long as you do a really good final flush at the end. After the next flush or so, you get rid of the Gro; then get rid of the Micro at the end. By week six, I was using only the Bloom and had the ppm between 1,500 and 1,700. Next came the final flush for the last 10 to 14 days, and then it was on to the harvest and all the goodness that comes with it. Do yourself a favor and invest in a good set of ice-water extraction bags so you can make perfect hash with all your trimmings. It's truly sublime!

Above all, remember to shower your plants with good vibes and lots of positive energy. My ultimate goal was to earn enough to be able to buy a piece of land someplace where it's perpetually warm and I could grow my own food and raise livestock. I managed to achieve my goal by creating a plan and executing it down to the last detail. While the lure of an extended run providing lots of easy cash was always right there in my face, sometimes you gotta just hit it and quit it. I am officially out of the rat race now, and I'm a much happier person for it. Many thanks to all the people who made it possible along the way, especially Don and Aaron at DNA Genetics. The stuff I got did exactly what they said it would, and I was more than satisfied with the end results. ✱

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Inside the Hydroponics-Industry Showdown

Twenty years after the DEA's Operation Green Merchant targeted the hydroponics industry, a rift has developed between the cautious companies of the past and newer competitors seeking to service the growing and legitimate medical-marijuana scene.

Story & photos by Danny Danko



General Hydroponics debuted their new organic line.



Compost-tea brewers on display.



Air filtration is essential for all indoor growing.



A tomato plant substitutes for cannabis in this booth.



An innovative two-story grow tent.



Vertical growing in the EcoSystem.



The Advanced Nutrients banner flies high over San Fran.

Where's the Weed?

On a late July weekend last summer in San Francisco, the industry that supplies the many hydro shops around the country got together to display new products and attract the curious crowds. Current shop owners, those hoping to open new stores and the general public all made their way through booth after booth of products meant primarily for indoor gardening. Everything from complete grow tents and air-purification equipment to organic-nutrient lines and lighting systems were represented in all their glory—yet something seemed to be missing.

Oddly enough, even in California—a state where medical marijuana has been legal for over a decade—there was no mention of any of these products being used to grow cannabis, despite the fact that it's undoubtedly a major factor in the sales figures of every company in attendance. All of the usual suspects and leading companies were there: General Hydroponics, Hydrofarm, Botanicare, Technaflora, Sunlight Supply, etc. Yet none would openly acknowledge that a large segment of their profits comes from cannabis growers.

Stranger still, many of these same companies display their products at grow fairs in Europe, where no such policies are required or imposed. Indeed, I've visited shops in Spain where grow lights and hydroponic equipment are sold side by side with copies of Jorge Cervantes's *Marijuana Grow Basics* as well as cannabis seeds and clones. Seems like a less hypocritical policy to me—but with millions of dollars at stake, the companies keeping their heads in the sand at home seem to have quite a long institutional memory.

Advanced Thinking

Yet there are some companies who do want to service legitimate medical-cannabis growers. The most prominent of these is Advanced Nutrients, a Canadian firm whose products are specifically tested for growing cannabis. Advanced Nutrients doesn't shy away from such associations, offering products named Big Bud and Sensi Bloom. As a result, they've been shunned by the industry and refused permission to display their wares at the expo. So Advanced Nutrients co-owner "Big Mike" Straumietis decided to upstage the show instead by shaming the industry into acknowledging the medical-marijuana community. (Getting a ton of publicity for the company and the cause couldn't hurt either.)

Mike's plan? He would hire a helicopter to fly over the event pulling a banner half the size of a football field with a huge pot plant on it and the words "Want Big, Sugary Buds?" Advanced Nutrients also threw an extravagant party that Saturday night featuring dancers and ice bong, a huge spread of food, and an interesting variety of libations available at the open bar.

I asked Big Mike at the party about the next day's protest, and he told me: "The Hydro Expo is tainted by a cadre of good ol' boys who make tons of money off medical-marijuana growers and patients, but lack the courage and honesty to allow open and honest discussion of medical marijuana." He'd also issued a million-dollar nutrient challenge to see which company's products grew the biggest, most potent buds, but so far he hadn't heard back from any of them. "They're all silent and scared," he said. "They just sit there like fat cats, taking in the dough. But the patients, the medical dispensaries and the growers are seeing through their lies. And when they look up in the air on Sunday above the Expo Hall, they'll see it spelled out quite clearly."

Who knows how this will all pan out? Was it just a publicity stunt by a company desperate to gain market share, or a shot across the bow of an entire industry? Only time—and rising consumer awareness—will tell. ✨

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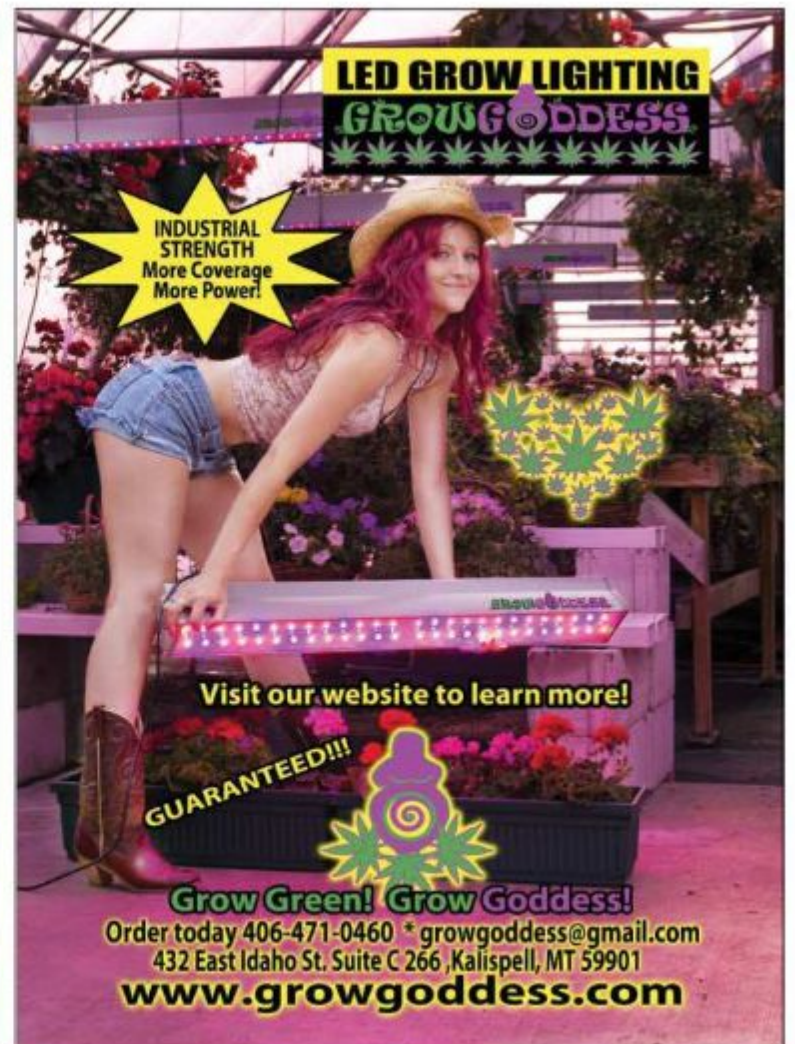
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BY SAMANTHA NICHOLAS PHOTOS BY DAN SKYE

A LONG TIME AGO, IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR WAY....

Well, actually, it wasn't *that* long ago—maybe seven years, tops. And it certainly wasn't in another galaxy that Death Star was created, but rather a growroom in the Midwest. However, there's no disputing the power of this intergalactically great strain. The mystical Force was undoubtedly at work when Death Star came into being.

However, given the well-known fictional history of the *Star Wars* universe, "Death Star" stands as an odd choice of name. The original Death Star was a massively destructive weapon developed as an instrument of terror by the Empire. It was capable of destroying entire planets and was used to keep rebellious worlds in line. In fact, Darth Vader used the Death Star to blow up Alderaan, Princess Leia's home planet.

So why would two Jedi Knights tag their cherished strain with a name that is rife with such negativity? It's not all that complicated: Death Star is the fortunate cross between Sour Diesel and Sensi Star. Basically, the "D" in "Diesel" became the inspiration for "Death," while the etymology of "Star" should be fairly obvious to everyone, Jedi Knight or not.

Incidentally, the Jedi phenomenon has found traction well beyond the movie theaters; apparently, Jedi Knights are among us in a big way. The 2001 census in the English-speaking countries of Britain, Wales, Canada, Australia and New Zealand revealed that tens of thousands of citizens consider themselves members of the Jedi "faith." While the media dismissed the phenomenon as nothing but a practical joke, there is little doubt that hordes of hardcore *Star Wars* fans take the tenets of Jedi-ism very seriously.

What are they? Just about anything that pro-

motes the greater good. According to one of the many websites promoting the Jedi faith, *Star Wars* creator George Lucas used various aspects of Taoism, Shintoism, Buddhism, Christianity and many other major religions in order to create the Jedi and the philosophy behind the Force (though Scientology failed to make the cut). Jedi-ism also encompasses a variety of different martial arts and the medieval code of chivalry. The Jedi is the modern version of the Shao Lin monk, the European knight and the samurai warrior all rolled into one.

All of which means that Jedi-ism may possibly be the perfect religion for growing pot. The Jedi Knights who created Death Star interpret the practice thusly: "We're always kind to people, honest and straightforward. We believe in instant karma—bad actions beget bad results, while good begets good."

They also assert that they "see things before they come," which obviously comes in handy if the cops are on the way. Also, they can "adapt to any situation"—a skill that is paramount in growing great pot, especially when you move from the temperate climate of the Midwest to the deserts of Nevada, where the Jedi Knights of Team Death Star currently reside.

As Jedi, they believe there is "something higher pushing us in a direction." That direction would be toward the future, when marijuana is legal and medical dispensaries can operate openly without the threat of police raids. Team Death Star is readying themselves for that day by producing T-shirts and posters; they want to be prepared when legalization finally comes so they can promote the strain for universal good.



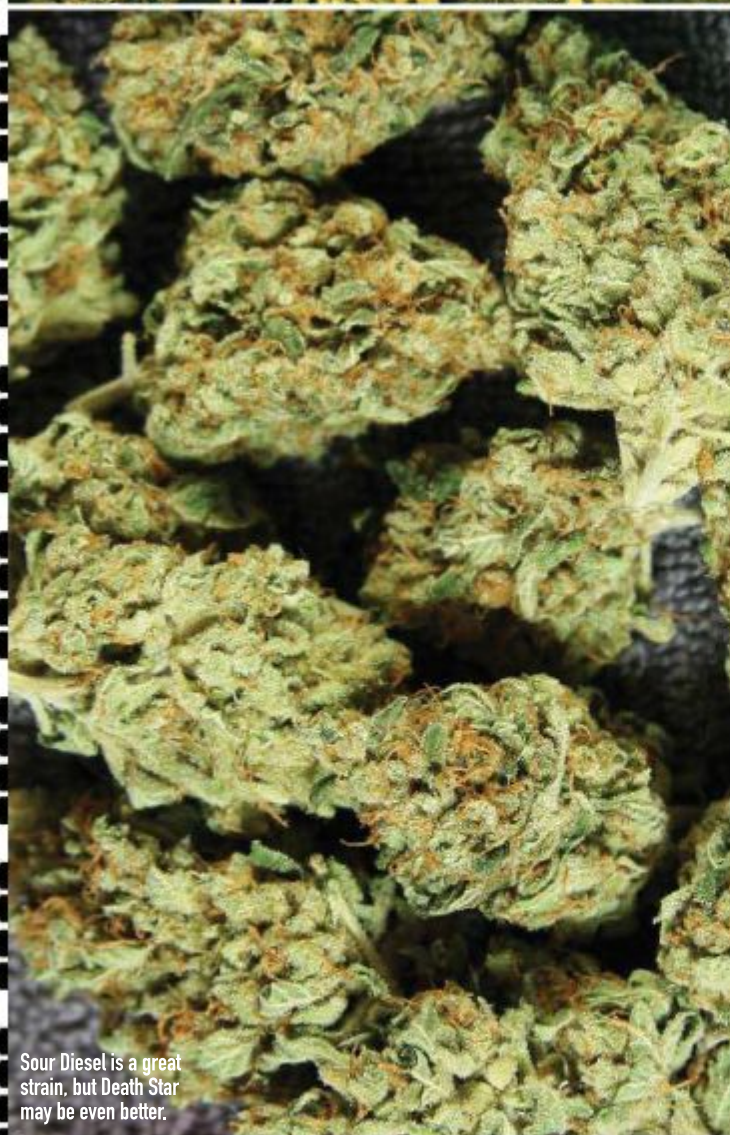
General Grievous stands guard over the mighty Death Star strain. Incidentally, Grievous is actually a pipe, crafted by the inimitable glass artist Banjo.

WAR



TEAM DEATH STAR

Self-described Jedi Knights guard the Team Death Star growrooms.



Sour Diesel is a great strain, but Death Star may be even better.

'DEATH STAR HAS FAR EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS. IT'S FAR BETTER THAN DIESEL.'

In the meantime, these Jedi growers keep close tabs on their Death Star. A few years ago, back in the Midwest, they were entrusted with a "true" Sour Diesel clone from a Vermont friend, who made them promise to pass the strain on only to principled pot growers, a request they have since honored. But that didn't mean they couldn't experiment. They first crossed the Sour Diesel with Bubblegum and G-13, but when they introduced it to Sensi Star, it was obvious that they'd hit the equivalent of the cannabis growers' lottery.

"Death Star has far exceeded our expectations," Team Death Star reports, adding: "It's far better than Diesel."

That's some endorsement, because Sour D is easily one of the most pleasant and powerful strains in existence. As for Death Star, it's an amazingly pungent specimen: Open up a bag and your immediate environment will be instantly suffused with its dank aroma. Moreover, the high-level stone it delivers is unmatched. Habitual pot smokers are dumbfounded by its capacity to take their high to a whole new level. And as far as its medicinal value goes, there is no other strain extant that can make a toker as hungry. Those in the marijuana community who have had the good for-

tune to encounter Death Star have been unanimously ecstatic. Rock legend Carlos Santana has tried it and now smokes no other strain—that is, when he can locate it.

Currently, only 50 to 60 growers in just three states are cultivating Death Star. It's not being handed out to just anybody—you gotta be a Jedi! But if a grower is deemed worthy of the strain, they immediately become part of the Force. "We're the Team's leaders," the founders of Team Death Star say, "but Jedi are all equal."

Getting into Team Death Star's inner sanctum was no mean feat. The Jedi growers are friendly yet cautious; they would hardly permit lowly subspecies to corrupt their world. I'm no Jedi, but I was judged sufficiently evolved to be allowed to visit their growroom.

As dusk enveloped Henderson, a suburb of Las Vegas, I parked in a mall parking lot with photographer Dan Skye. As instructed, we waited near the Sears department store. Within 15 minutes, Team Death Star arrived. They turned out to be an ordinary-looking young couple, the kind that might use a Friday night to buy a new dishwasher—or maybe some 3-gallon pots at Home Depot.

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Death Star is a fortunate cross between a "true" Sour Diesel and Sensi Star.

make their move to one of the two flowering rooms.

As might be expected with Jedi growers, the gardens are immaculate, and no landlord would ever suspect that his property had been used as a pot farm. ("We always get our deposit back," the Team says.) Team Death Star has been pleased with the Nevada climate—no bugs, no mold, no mites—but it's a challenge to keep the plants from drying out when the temperature outside reaches triple digits.

Their operation is a perpetual garden, and harvest happens every two weeks. Their fertilizer is a mix of perlite and Ocean Forest. The temperature in the gardens is always 79°F. Each room features 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights, with 12 plants allotted to each. They're watered every other day with all-organic nutrients and a "couple of secret ingredients." When harvest time finally arrives, the flushing process last two weeks.

There are other strains in their garden as well. Kyle Kushman's Strawberry Cough is here, but the Team admit it's losing popularity. The Dumpster is here, too—the elite strain that was rescued from a dumpster on the Ohio State campus a decade or so ago, nursed back to health, and now stands among the top smokes in Stonerland. And Team Death Star can barely contain their excitement over a new concoction, an as-yet-unnamed strain (Grape Skunk x Super Silver Haze x Death Star) that awaits an other-worldly moniker of its very own.

Like true Jedi, the Team Death Star growers are happy to pass on their secrets to aspiring knights. "Pay attention," they say. "Write everything down, like when you change a light; don't be a stoner and forget when you changed it. And be consistent—if you do things right, you shouldn't have to spend more than an hour a day overseeing your babies."

Prior to our departure from Team Death Star headquarters, a fat, Jedi-approved joint was passed our way. Undeniably, the Force was now with us. Upon leaving, we were instructed to don our sunglasses once again. Dan's nausea returned, but not as severely: Death Star had rescued him. However, it affected me as well—when we returned to the parking lot, it took me 20 minutes to remember where I'd parked the car. 🌿

Once we were inside the car, we were handed two pairs of blacked-out sunglasses that we were required to wear on the trip to Team Death Star's secret lair. Within minutes, Dan was getting nauseous—apparently, he's got an inner-ear problem that makes his equilibrium a little dicey, and being driven around blindly with all the constant turns, U-turns, double-backs and circles was playing havoc with his stomach. Fortunately, we pulled into a garage before Dan could leave a token of his visit in the backseat.

The automatic garage door closed behind us. We could have been anywhere in suburban Vegas, as far as I could deduce, but we might also have headed somewhere else completely and wound up in Spring Valley. But wherever it was, we were now in a two-story house somewhere in a desert community.

Upstairs, there were five bedrooms, three of which had been converted into gardens. An all-organic operation, the smallest room was a veg room outfitted with T-5 lighting where the cuttings start in cups, move to 1-gallon pots, and finally are transferred to 3-gallon pots. That's when they



Plants at various states of maturation grow strong in Team Death Star's veg room.

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