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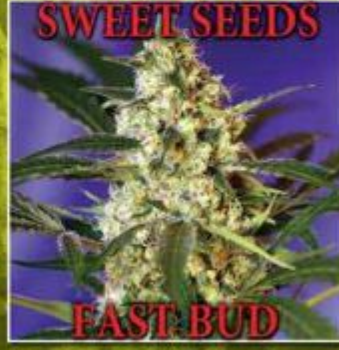
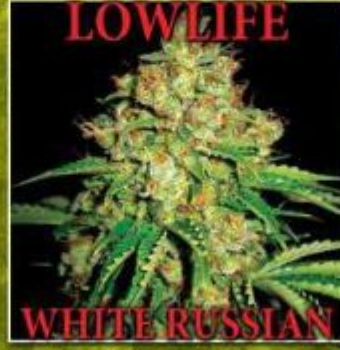
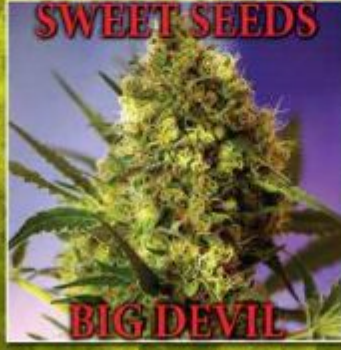
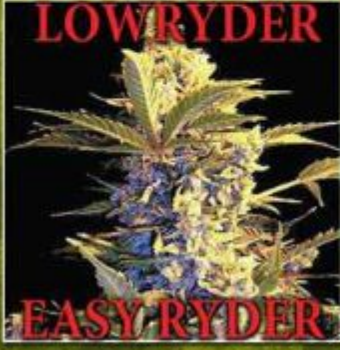
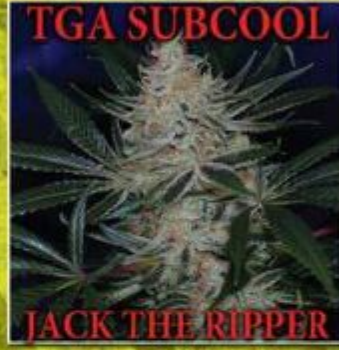
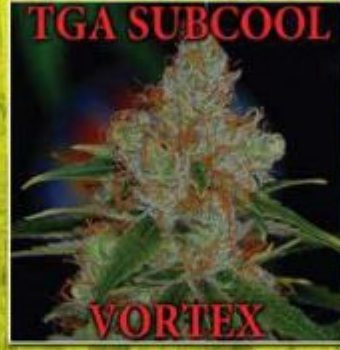
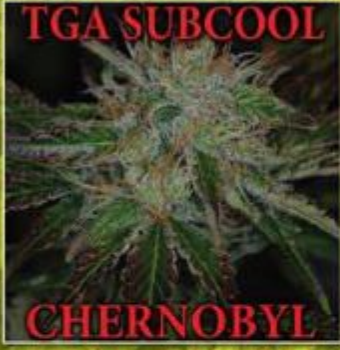
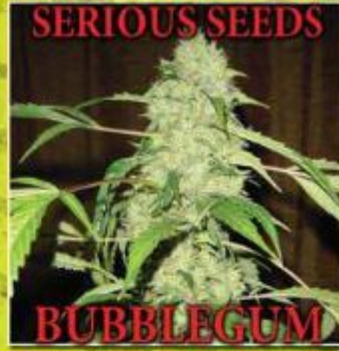
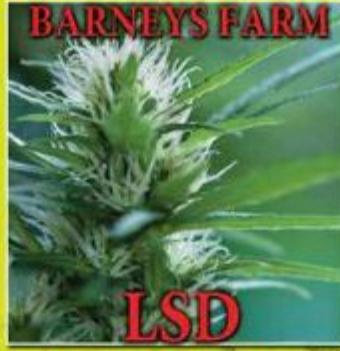
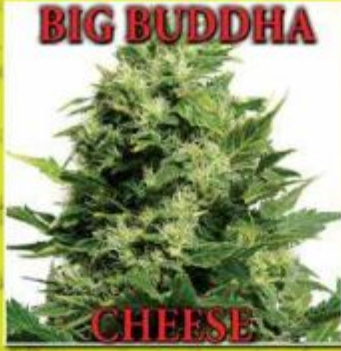
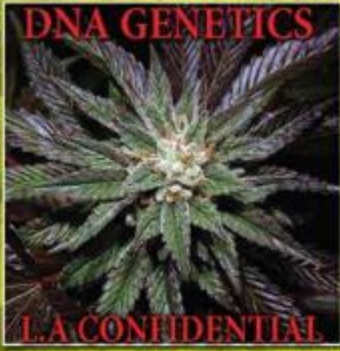
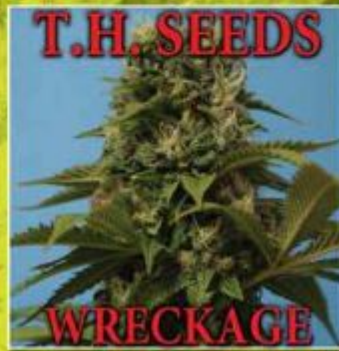
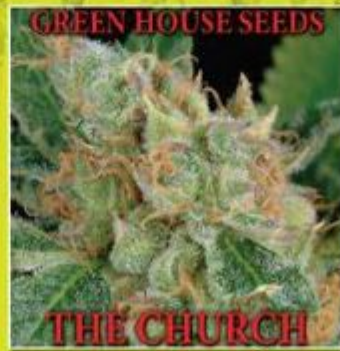
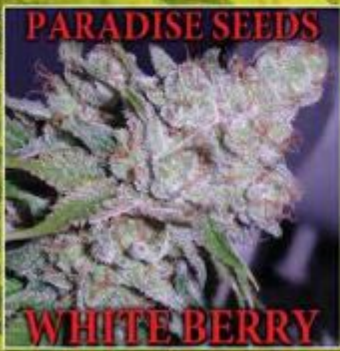
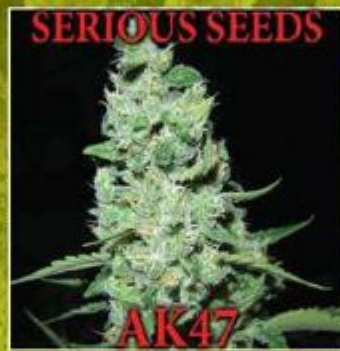
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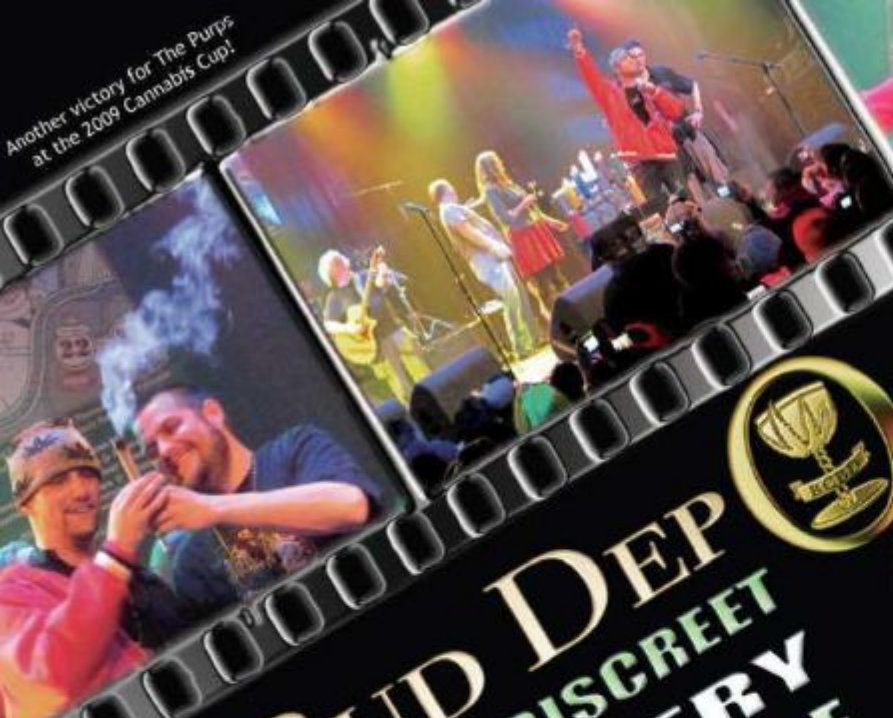
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FANTASYLAND

If you smoke pot, it's a pretty safe bet that you spend a fair amount of time thinking over the vagaries of life—age-old questions like “What the fuck am I doing here?” and “Where the fuck am I going next?”

They're fair questions. But if you want answers, we're just as lost as you are.

That doesn't prevent us from contemplating the Great Mystery in all its facets. We like UFO tales, conspiracy theories and weird, spooky stuff. That's why stories like that go in our magazine.

In this particular issue, you'll find your fair share. Senior editor Chris Simunek explores the world of Bigfoot in his investigative report chronicling the true believers who hunt the mythic beast.

Creative director Steven Hager takes on the CIA and its use of LSD in mind-control experiments. Did America's best-known spy agency really dose an entire French village in the 1950s just to watch them trip? Or are we living in Fantasyland?

Maybe. We're certainly always fantasizing about massive, flourishing gardens—that's why we're covering the Colorado cannabis phenomenon once again, as well as events like the Las Vegas Flameoff, where top glass artists give glorious flight to their fantasies.

And that's why we offer the very best in marijuana education—so you can fulfill your own fantasies. Check out this month's seminar on advanced breeding. Then learn how to get rid of the little creatures that infect your plants and break your heart. Plus, Canadians who grow medical pot show you how to make your buds bigger and better, eh?

Fantasies come in all shades of green. Sometimes they're incredibly stinky. Here's to yours!



Is Bigfoot pilfering gardens across the Northwest?

FREEBIE

Phantasmagorically,

Dan Skye

Dan Skye
Executive Editor

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36



FEATURES

36 COLORADICAL

BY DAN SKYE

The marijuana explosion in the Rocky Mountain State continues to reverberate. Two outstanding medical gardens demonstrate that the tenacity of Colorado activists and the expertise of growers are paying off with outstanding medicine for everyone.

44 HOW STRAINS ARE MADE

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

Ever wonder if all those glorious strains actually exist, or are they just made-up figments of a dealer's imagination? Well, here's your answer: Of course they exist! And this introduction to breeding shows you how they're made, taking you through the basics and right into advanced breeding concepts, explaining along the way how seeds are created and how hybrid strains come into existence. A great piece for any grower or connoisseur who fancies himself an expert of the *Cannabis Kingdom*!

54 FOOT SOLDIERS

BY CHRIS SIMUNEK

It is said that Sasquatch has haunted the wilds of the Pacific Northwest since before the white man first set foot in America. *HIGH TIMES* searches the Cascade Mountains in a quest to find the legendary beast. Could this elusive animal possibly exist—or are we just smoking something way too strong?

64 CANADIAN HYBRID HYDRO

Cannabis correspondent Erik Biksa tours a Canadian medical-marijuana facility where specialists utilize a combination of techniques—old and new—as well as pure ingenuity to grow huge pot plants for patients in need.

80 THE CIA'S LSD ATTACK

BY STEVEN HAGER

An entire French town mysteriously went insane during the summer of 1951, and after nearly 60 years, we finally know what really happened.

88 CYPRESS HILL RISE UP

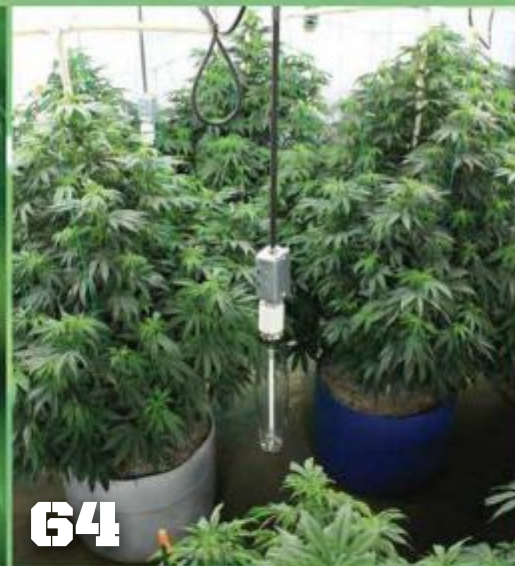
BY JUSTIN HAMPTON

The world's stoniest hip-hop trio are back with a bong! B-Real, Sen Dog and DJ Muggs return after a long hiatus with more of those evergreen stoner anthems we all know and love so well. *HIGH TIMES* travels to their home turf in Los Angeles for an exclusive smoking session.

54



64



88



44



118



DEPARTMENTS

06 PAGE SIX

12 HIGHWITNESS NEWS/BUZZ

EDITED BY DAN SKYE

Madam Governor; Hollyweed; Obama is anti-pot; Activist tip; Pot and the Pentagon shooter; *The Bike Trip*; Barry Cooper busted; Walking for weed; Pot vs. booze; Showbuzz; Flameoff in Las Vegas; Ancestors; Ralph Metzner; Red Fang; *Fix*; Reviews; Band of the Month; Miss *HIGH TIMES*; Almost Infamous; Brain Damage Control.

99 GROWORLD

EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO
Pix of the Crop; Cannabis Clinic; Munchies; NORMLizer; Freedom Fighter; Dr. Mitch; SSDP Report; Pot Pest Control; Gear/Hot Products; Dear Danko.

134 NEXT MONTH

140 POT 40

COVER: LOCHFOOT STRAIN: OG KUSH
CENTERFOLD: FREEBIE STRAIN: BLACKBERRY KUSH

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FEEDBACK

BIG BUD COUNTRY

I'm a Montana resident, and I loved the article on "Big Sky Buds." It said there were over 4,000 registered cannabis users, with an additional 2,000 expected over the next six months. Well, it turns out that by the end of 2009, over 16,000 patients were registered, and it's estimated that we are now at over 20,000 as of February, with doctors' offices booked solid for two months and a waiting period of six to eight weeks for a medical card, as the state is swamped with applicants. So it's only a matter of time before full legalization/regulation is considered. Keep it up, Montana!

MegaMontana

HOT GLASS

Hey, HT! I'm a big glass aficionado, and there's nothing I love more than a clean piece. I just wanted to suggest an easy way to clean out your gear for all the readers like me: About a tablespoon of salt and a half-cup of rubbing alcohol will clean any glass you have. Add the ingredients and shake vigorously (just be sure not to let go of your precious piece!), then wash with warm water and enjoy!

Love the mag—keep on fighting the good fight!

J.

APRIL RULES

Thank you for printing Dr. Grinspoon's op-ed in your April 2010 issue. I am interested in Rick Simpson and hope that the medical community will soon begin to investigate his work. However, wild claims that his oil can cure *anything* are hard to believe purely on anecdotal evidence. Also, great article on home-built aeroponics—more DIY-type info, please.

MC Freak

THMQ Q

Just want to say I've been reading HIGH TIMES since 1976, so thank you! Over the years, it's been a source of excellent information for me and my friends.

I do, however, have a question (or maybe a complaint): Why is it that THMQ is never listed in the table of contents? Every month, I have to search the mag page by page to find it. As I'm now getting a little old, this has become a very repetitive process. We make use of this info as a baseline reference quite often.

Pope of Alaska

THMQ is usually found on the same page every month—on page 20 (as in "420"). Remember it!

STINKY SITUATION

I live in Colorado and have been to several dispensaries in my area, and it seems that all the weed here smells the same. I'm not sure what indoor growers are using, but it sure leaves a sweet, pungent smell to all the strains. For instance, Skunk #1 smells like Purple Kush? When I lived in California, Skunk smelled like a



skunk. Please help me and many other patients understand why all the strains around here—some 50 or more—smell the same?

Sonya

GET THE LED OUT?

I am very enthusiastic about LED technology, so you can imagine how bummed I was to open the May 2010 issue and read Nico Escondido's "Maximizing Medicine" piece, especially this sen-

tence: "... LED lights ... fall short when it comes to creating large yields and growing healthy plants." I think that people who purchase LED lights expect lower yields, but the news that plants might not end up being healthy wasn't something I'd heard before. It also seems to contradict Nico's prior report on LEDs, in a May 2009 piece: "... LEDs like the UFO have produced yields similar to or better than their HID counterparts in initial trials (see results in final section)." Can you please explain to me why LEDs seem to have fallen out of favor at HT? I love your magazine because it provides inspiration and encouragement to a wide range of potential growers. I am concerned that anyone who was inspired to purchase expensive LEDs last year—understanding their relative limitations, of course—might now feel like a dumbass or sucker.

SoCal Sally

CUP HELP

I wanted to ask if you had any pointers on the cheapest way to go to the Cannabis Cup. I am a true smoker, 30 years strong, but I live in Louisiana and, since Katrina, all we get is trash. I have always wanted to go to the Cup, but I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma a couple of years ago ... went through the chemo and even had a few months of remission, but now the beast is back, meaner than before, and I am sure that now is the time to start doing the things on my "bucket list."

I know there's no real *cheap* trip to Amsterdam, but I was hoping that you might know a few tricks to shaving a few bucks off. I would really like to smoke the best pot in the world before I die—for a stoner like me, that would be my greatest accomplishment next to my daughter. Anyway, any advice you could offer would be appreciated.

Cathy

Hey Cathy, sorry to hear about the recent diagnosis. Stay strong, and we hope that you get through it. Maybe you can run a fundraiser to get you to the Cup. You can start a website and have people donate. People have big hearts and like to help others get their dreams accomplished. We'll be seeing you sooner than you think.

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A VERY CHIC IRON SHEIK

Once you've reached the pinnacle of the professional wrestling world, what more do you really need in life?

Apparently, a bong.

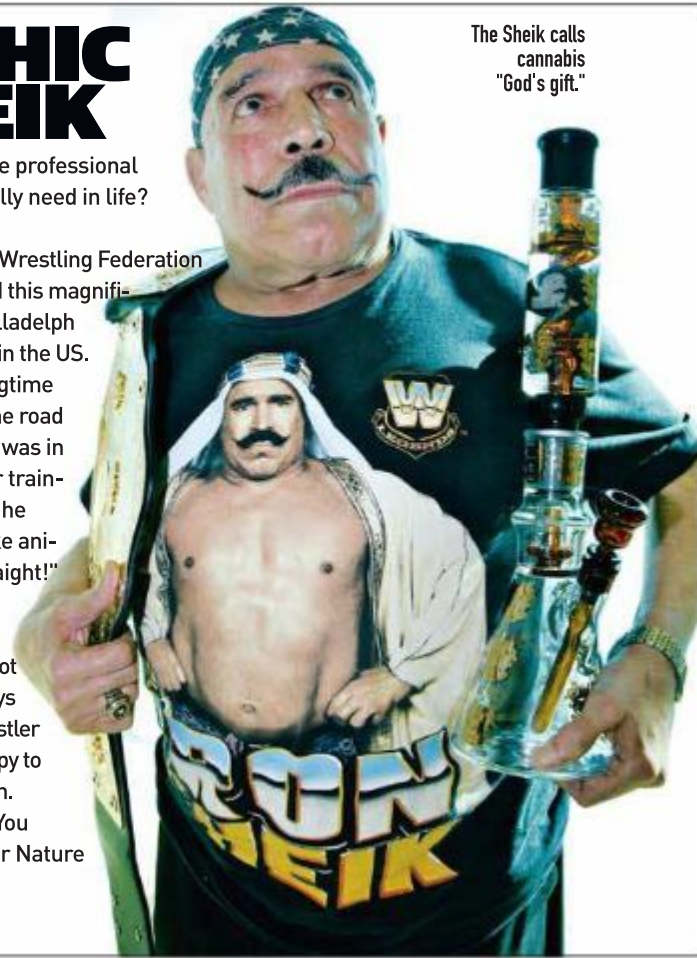
The Iron Sheik, who held the World Wrestling Federation title until Hulk Hogan defeated him, had this magnificent waterpipe bestowed upon him by Illadelph glass, one of the premier glass studios in the U.S.

The reason? The Iron Sheik is a longtime cannabis fan who says that toking on the road was fairly commonplace back when he was in the ring. He was especially fond of it for training purposes. "Before I go to the gym," he says, "I would smoke and I would be like animal. I could work out for two hours straight!"

At 67, the Sheik is now retired and makes frequent public appearances. He moves a little slower now, but he's still got that fiery, demonstrative spirit that always draws a crowd. The former Olympic wrestler and bodyguard to the Shah of Iran is happy to have cannabis as his constant companion.

"It is God's gift," claim the Sheik. "You should use it in moderation, but Mother Nature gave it to us and I am happy for that."

Visit sheikshow.com.



The Sheik calls cannabis "God's gift."

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Officials in Colorado can't handle the flow of applications for the state's medical marijuana registry. Applications have nearly quadrupled from a year ago averaging about 1,000 per day. Bureaucrats are asking for more personnel to deal with the avalanche. In fact, the state health department said it would no longer review applications for accuracy at the walk-up window.

Meanwhile, the National Football League draft was held in April. This year, the draft picks were exceptionally high. NFL insiders estimated that 10 or 11 of prospective first-round picks were known pot users. Another NFL head coach estimated that "one-third" of the players that his team was considering drafting had marijuana experience.

On the flip side, the University of Montana banned medical marijuana on campus even though the state has approved the medicine for state patients. University officials fear losing federal research funds by allowing students to legally medicate.



A helium balloon...

HIGH-FLYING IDEAS

Did you get busted during the recent Global Marijuana March because you were enjoying your joint a bit too freely? Our sympathies. Next time, follow the example of the legendary paraphernalia innovator known as Joe Pipe. Joe has used everything from Life Savers to Frisbees to create smokeware, but his latest innovation may save your ass.

Tie the string of a helium balloon around your joint. When the cops move in, let go! Bye-bye balloon, Bye-bye bust!



...saves you from doom and gloom.



POT AND THE PENTAGON SHOOTER

In March, John Patrick Bedell emerged from Internet obscurity by opening fire on two Pentagon security officers. He was killed when they returned fire. In no time, the 36-year-old "Pentagon shooter" was being described as an enigmatic drifter, a "genius" computer programmer, a nanotechnology enthusiast, a conspiracy theorist and a Democrat who attended right-wing Tea Parties.

Of course, it came as no surprise that mainstream-media outlets chose to emphasize the fact that Bedell cultivated and smoked pot. (He used cannabis in an attempt to treat his bipolar disorder.) Bedell was simultaneously profiled as a whack job who used medical marijuana and as a serious drug addict with a pot problem that extended far beyond the realm of responsible self-medication.

San Benito County Supervisor Reb Monaco, a family friend for years, described Bedell as a "brilliant young man" suffering from a "severe pot addiction." Though Monaco insisted that he wasn't blaming marijuana for Bedell's mental illness—which he acknowledged had been getting worse for at least 15 years—he did opine: "I certainly don't think that helped."

Actually, it doesn't seem like much of anything did, especially since Monaco concluded that "myself, his family, even law enforcement, have done everything they could do legally," but Bedell refused treatment. So why pick on pot for not "helping" (assuming, of course, that it didn't—nobody in the media has explored the notion that his pot use kept Bedell from cracking up a lot sooner). After all, the vast majority of people who smoke pot—including those who use it medically to treat psychological disorders—have never gone on a shooting spree at the Pentagon. But, needless to say, that didn't stop the press from playing up Bedell's pot use as a sign of his mental instability.



Obama loses a huge voting bloc.

ANY QUESTIONS?

The Obama administration is proving to be no different than past anti-pot Presidents. In March, White House Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske held a private talk before police chiefs in California. He stated: "Marijuana legalization—for any purpose—is a nonstarter in the Obama administration. The costs of legalizing marijuana would outweigh any possible tax that could be levied." As for medical cannabis, he said, "Science should determine what a medicine is, not popular vote."

TRUE HOLLYWEED STORIES

What if the E! network covered pot? We'd probably hear which strains were hooking up and all kinds of other hot, juicy ganja gossip.

STRAIN	ANCESTRY
White Widow	Green Diamond had her eyes set on Panama Red. But Panama Red was married to Blueberry. While trying to murder Blueberry, Green Diamond accidentally killed Panama Red instead.
Cheese	Lemon Ice and Carmelicious got stuck in an elevator together. Nine weeks later, Cheese was born.
NYC Diesel	Question: If A-Train left Grand Central Station at 4:19 and headed down the track at 420 mph, where would you bury the survivors of the Trainwreck, and what kind of train was it? The answers: NYC, Diesel.
AK-47	A volatile mixture of Special K and Bel-ladonna. Pow!
Sweet Island Skunk	Himalayan Gold and Jamaican Pearl had a torrid love affair. Sadly, it ended—but the smell still remains.
LA Confidential	Afghani couldn't keep a secret and Northern Lights could. Northern Lights told Afghani to get bent and went out west, where she still lives as a recluse to this day.
G-13	G-13 claims she's God Bud's kid as the result of a Immaculate Conception of Mary Jane, but she's actually the Green Devil's spawn. Remember, you didn't hear it from us.
Fourway #1	Smokey Bear couldn't see through the Purple Haze and Strawberry Coughed her way through a White Cloud.
Bubblegum	Bazooka got stuck in a strange position with CannaSutra. The rest is history... sticky history.
Purple Urkel	Granddaddy Purps made a mess all over Swiss Miss. When confronted about her clumsy behavior, she replied, "Did I do that?"

MADAM GOVERNOR?

Former high-end madam Kristin Davis is running for governor of New York. Davis, who spent four months in Rikers Island prison after a conviction for promoting prostitution, says her campaign was partially inspired by the injustice of her serving time while former Governor Eliot Spitzer (whom Davis claims was among her freakier clients) walked away without any charges filed against him after getting caught on a wiretap arranging a meeting with a prostitute. As governor, Davis says she would legalize not just prostitution, gambling and other "victimless crimes," but gay marriage and recreational marijuana use as well. She recently shared her views on freeing the weed with us.

Why did you decide to include legalizing marijuana in your platform?

Marijuana legalization fits my basic campaign philosophy, which favors both economic and personal freedom. It's also common sense. New York State is broke—we have a \$9.1 billion immediate budget deficit, and billions more in long-term debt. Meanwhile, New York has millions of people who would gladly pay a reasonable tax on marijuana if the criminal aspects were removed and quality was ensured. Not to mention the thousands of jobs legalization would create, which we need desperately in this state.

How did you first become interested in this issue?

I myself am not a user of any drugs, and I drink very little, but I feel strongly about other people's freedom to indulge. Frankly, I'm sick of the government telling individuals what they can and cannot do, particularly when the political class abuses the system, robs the state blind, and lacks any moral authority to tell New Yorkers how to behave properly.

Do you think marijuana is an aphrodisiac?

I imagine it depends on the individual. The few times I used marijuana growing up, I found it made me introverted and less social. It has the opposite effect on other people, and I'm sure for many of them it is an aphrodisiac. To each his own.



Bloomberg in a spoof of *Hair*, a pro-pot Broadway show.

Since 1997, nearly a half-million people have been busted in New York City for possession of small amounts of pot. That works out to about 100 pot busts each day. In fact, in 2008 alone, over 40,000 people were arrested and jailed for possession of small amounts.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg obviously has no problem with the siege on pot smokers. In March, he told reporters: "One of the problems of legalizing marijuana is marijuana keeps getting stronger and stronger, the Health Department says. It may very well lead to greater use of drugs, which isn't good. And while I've always thought that people have a right to, as long as they are not hurting anybody else to do what they want, I guess if I had to vote today, which I'm not asked to vote, I would vote against legalizing marijuana."

Not only is Bloomberg hopelessly clueless on the latest cannabis research, he is also—how shall we put this?—a hypocritical piece of shit. Before he became Mayor, he was asked if he'd ever smoked.

"You bet I did. And I enjoyed it," he replied.



Kristin Davis carries the ball for legal pot in New York.

MAYOR PUTZ

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THE BIKE TRIP

Martin Dockery's one-man show dramatizing his bicycle journey over the route that LSD discoverer Albert Hofmann took as he experienced the world's first-ever acid trip is not to be missed. Dockery's play weaves through San Francisco, Goa and his own awkward childhood before finally peaking outside Hofmann's home in Switzerland. The anecdotes and tales are all stitched together by a common thread—LSD. *The Bike Trip* is a quirky, energetic show fueled by Dockery's acid experiences, and he's definitely not a performer who shies away from uncomfortable situations. His play is one that any acid user can relate to, world traveler or otherwise.

You still have a chance to see this remarkably beautiful and offbeat show: Dockery will be performing *The Bike Trip* at festivals from Florida and Arizona to Ontario and Manitoba. Visit martindockery.com.

POT VS. BOOZE

A study recently conducted by researchers at the University of California at Berkeley suggests that cannabis is useful in treating people who heavily abuse alcohol or other dangerous drugs. In a survey of 350 cannabis users conducted at the Berkeley Patients Group, 40 percent of the respondents said that they used cannabis to control alcohol cravings; 66 percent said they used it as a replacement for prescription drugs; and 26 percent said they used it instead of other, more potent illegal drugs.

The study's lead researcher, Amanda Reiman, also noted that 65 percent of the people surveyed said they used cannabis because it has fewer adverse side effects than alcohol, pharmaceuticals or illicit drugs; 34 percent because it has less withdrawal potential; and 57 percent because it provides better symptom management.



Lift your glass high!

A high stepping cause.



WALK HARD—AND HIGH!

A lot of Americans are fed up with the government, but few will go as far to prove it as 26-year-old Connecticut native Dan Gervais. To protest "80 years of lies and propaganda" about marijuana, and to raise awareness about the diverse uses of hemp, this one-man Tea Party has decided to walk across the entire country using only hemp products for his food, clothing and supplies.

Dan's "War on Lies" Walk began on April 20 at Boston Harbor and will end at Santa Monica Beach on November 4—about 3,300 miles in 28 weeks. "It's a very ambitious pace," Gervais admits, "but I want to be in California before the election." Along the way, he'll campaign for medical marijuana in Massachusetts, champion decrim in Rhode Island, promote hemp-farming rights in the Midwest, advocate reduced sentencing in Utah—and, of course, crusade for full legalization in California's upcoming election.

"I'm trying to inspire those who aren't involved," he says. "I'd like anybody who believes in this cause to come join the walk. Whether it's 10 feet or 10 miles, the more people who participate, the bigger the statement."

Emerald of Sun River, OR, and the Hempest of Boston, MA, have made hemp-product donations to Dan's walk. Check out his full schedule and route at waronlies.net.

BARRY COOPER BUSTED

Super narc turned guerrilla filmmaker Barry Cooper was arrested and charged with filing a false police report in Florence, TX. Cooper became a polarizing figure after leaving law enforcement and using his narc knowledge to teach potheads how to avoid detection with his *Never Get Busted Again* DVD. Recently, Cooper set his sights on exposing corrupt cops through sting operations designed to catch them breaking the law. It was during one of these stings for his Internet project, "KopBusters," that Cooper was arrested for reporting a suspicious package on the grounds of a middle school. The cops say that Cooper planted the package (which contained a crack pipe) himself in order to film the responding officers' actions.

After his arrest, the cops obtained a warrant and searched Cooper's home, where they found a small amount of pot—less than a gram, according to sources. By all accounts, it's somewhat unusual for a search warrant to be issued in connection with a false-report case, a misdemeanor. Perhaps Cooper has finally succeeded in motivating Texas law enforcement to try to put him away. Visit nevergetbusted.com.



Was Barry singled out?

THIS MONTH IN SPORTSBUZZ

WASHINGTON'S LAUNDRY

During spring training, it was revealed that Ron Washington, the manager of the Texas Rangers, tested positive for cocaine last season.



Ron throws a screwball.

According to news reports, Washington told the league and Ranger management that he'd only snorted that one time ever. He also offered his resignation, but was allowed to keep his job because, well, everybody makes mistakes. A few days later, Washington disclosed that he'd also smoked pot and popped amphetamines during his playing career.

Baseball fans will recall that back in the '80s, when Washington played, cocaine use was rampant in Major League Baseball—so it's a bit hard to believe that he did his first line at age 57. Predictably, Washington used nonsensical, blustering jock-speak to defend himself: "These people know Ron Washington. I am a good person. No, I'm not a good person—I'm a damn good person. And I'm proud. And I fight. And I'm hungry. And I made a mistake."

Sounds like he's still on blow.



Lance wins the straight way.

A DOG'S WORLD

In March, Lance Mackey won the Iditarod, the grueling dog-sled race across Alaska, for the fourth straight time.

Mackey, a throat-cancer survivor with a medical recommendation to use cannabis,

has been candid about using pot in past races. Perhaps that's why Iditarod officials announced that they'd be testing "mushers" as well as their dogs for performance-enhancing drugs. But Mackey raced without pot and won anyway, clocking the second-fastest time ever. Mackey wasn't surprised, though he was obliged to remind the world: "It's a dog race, not a human race."

BIBLE STUDIES

Former heavyweight boxing champion Tommy Morrison was busted in Kansas for pot last March, but he insisted the case is "not what it seems." Morrison had a spiritual explanation for the bust:



God ignores Tommy.

He said he was sitting in his car outside a Wichita gym, reading his Bible and meditating prior to a workout, and someone must have thought he looked suspicious and called the police. Morrison allowed the cops to search his car, and they found a box with a pipe inside that had marijuana residue. Morrison added that he hadn't known what was in the box.

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Hacky Sacky took second place in the Female Flameoff.



Adam G performs intricate work on his winning, squid-like creation.

FLAMEOFF IN VEGAS

Superstar artists of the glass-pipe industry square off in the biggest competition of the torch ever! Story & photos by Dan Skye



Ghost and Chaz in a long line of torches.



Eusheen used a power drill to perfect his piece.

If you're a fire marshal in Las Vegas, how do you respond when 49 glassblowers wielding torches hotter than 1,500°F ask permission to compete against one another in a local convention hall? Well, generally, you'd say "No, thanks." And that's what the organizers of the Las Vegas Flameoff faced right up until the last hours prior to the event. Oxygen tanks, propane tanks, miles of hose snaking across the convention floor, plus a kiln for every contestant, not to mention carbon-monoxide levels that would require constant monitoring ... which all begs the question: Why even bother?

"It crossed my mind," admitted the Flameoff's lead organizer. "I wondered, 'Why am I doing this to myself?' But we ultimately pushed through the obstacles and mounted the best fucking event the glass-pipe industry has ever seen!"

No argument here—and it's about time! For the past 20 years, the paraphernalia industry has not only revitalized the art of glassblowing, it has also taken the lead in developing new techniques, tools and materials. Moreover, "pipers," as this new generation of blowers calls itself, are undisputedly the top artists working in the medium of glass—period. So what better way to promote and honor their achievements than to mount a competition with \$45,000 in prize money at stake?

Once the Las Vegas Flameoff organizers finally satisfied the safety concerns of city officials, the artists got underway working in a wide, oblong bullpen. With all of the torches pointed outward, the circling crowds were treated to an intimate perspective on the skill and intense concentration required to create a glass pipe.

The contestants were divided into three categories. The industry's top dudes—those who have displayed a high degree of artistry over the past decade and whose work is widely known—fought it out in a Masters division, while the top women competed in a Female Flameoff. Glass-smokeware companies were able to get in on the action by backing top pipers in a



Top artist Julie Riggs at work. Tammy Ball took third for an homage to Cheech & Chong.



Elite artist Banjo works on a 1957 Chevy.



'I'm just getting started. This is my first flameoff, and I never expected this.'

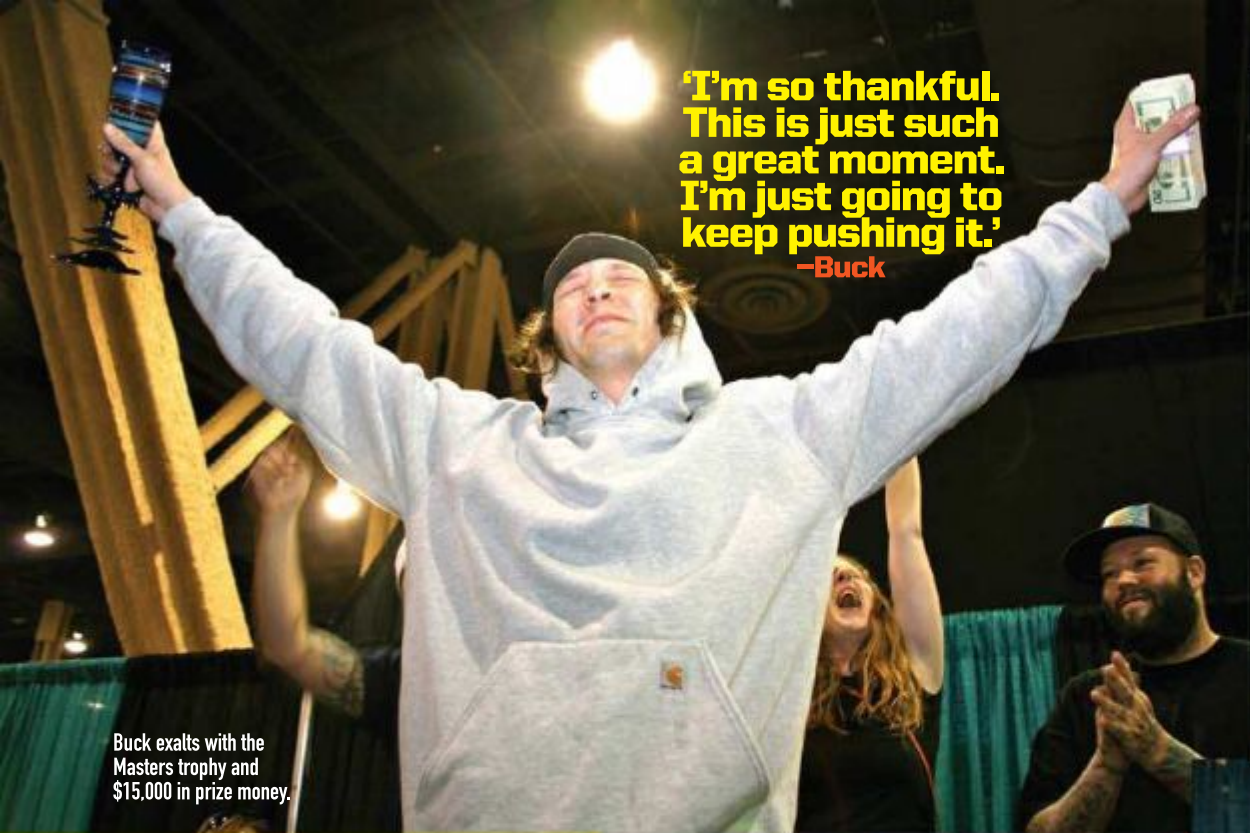
-Laceface



Laceface won the Female Flameoff with a whopping 65 percent of the vote.

Buck's open-jawed piranha hooked the top prize in the Masters division.





'I'm so thankful. This is just such a great moment. I'm just going to keep pushing it.'
 —Buck

Buck exalts with the Masters trophy and \$15,000 in prize money.



Laceface's winning piece titled "On the Rise."



Champion Laceface is all smiles.

Sponsored Artist division. However, sheer artistry transcended category. Creations of outstanding originality were produced in all divisions.

Competing in the Masters division were artists like Brock, Marcel, Banjo, Darby, Ghost, Chaz, Nate Dizz, Dellene Peralta, Salt and Eusheen, all of whom would definitely merit their own bubblegum cards if there were a Major League Baseball of glass. But it was the unheralded, relative unknown Buck who blew away the competition with his startling, open-jawed "Piranha." Then again, considering that Ghost created a doped-out alien, Darby crafted a ray gun, Nate Dizz fashioned a pot plant that lit up, and Banjo built a '57 Chevy, it should come as no surprise that a frightening, flesh-eating fish was able to hook the popular vote. (The Flameoff's attendees served as the judges.) In fact, competition in the Masters division was so close that Buck edged Eusheen by only one vote. (Note to Eusheen: Your brother forgot to vote, so blame him.)

The legendary Banjo was tickled, even despite his own loss. "All of us big dogs were favored," he said after Buck's win. "We got our asses handed to us, and I couldn't be happier. This is the most important, most significant event ever in flamework glass."

Chaz chimed in: "We're a family here. Every artist is working within themselves, but the event is still a huge team effort." Chaz and Banjo are best buds who have known each other for 10 years, but the Flameoff gave them the chance to meet their industry cohorts and finally put a face to the artists whose work they've long admired.

Speaking of faces, it was Laceface who took the Female Flameoff crown for "On the Rise," an elegant piece adorned with an emerging goddess, which garnered a whopping 65 percent of the vote. Laceface has been working the torch for five years and has studied the female form intensely. All the



Buck's piranha won by one vote.

same, "I'm just getting started," she says. "This is my first flameoff, and I never expected this. But I've been making a series of these pieces where the recurring theme seems to be emergence, or rising up. I'm coming to realize that this is me—I'm the one who's emerging."

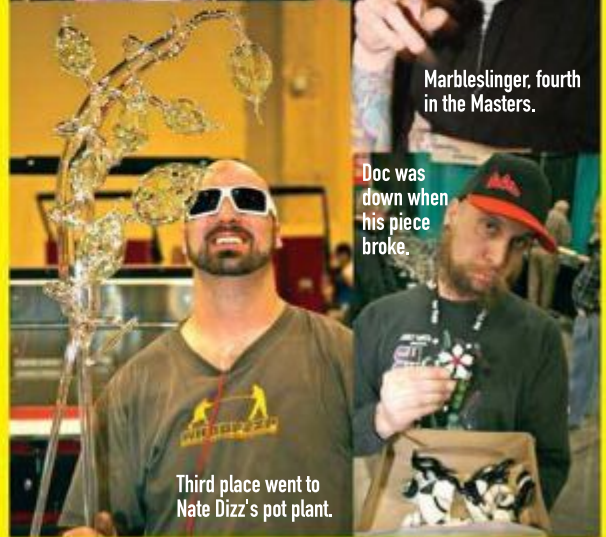
In the Sponsored Artist division, Adam G walked off with the top prize for his squid-like smoking instrument, demonstrating once again that imagination was the key element for the judges when it came to determining a winner.

After the awards ceremony, the winners were amazingly humble—even with a brick of cash equaling \$15,000 clutched in their hand. "I'm so thankful," said Buck. "This is just such a great moment. I'm just going to keep pushing it."

Which, according to the Las Vegas Flameoff's organizers, is precisely their plan, too. "Nothing like this has ever been done," said one. "We're contacting the *Guinness Book of World Records* to confirm it. And if they say we haven't, we'll definitely do it next time around. We're pushing it." ✨



A victory pose for Adam G.



Marbleslinger, fourth in the Masters.

Doc was down when his piece broke.

Third place went to Nate Dizz's pot plant.

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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.

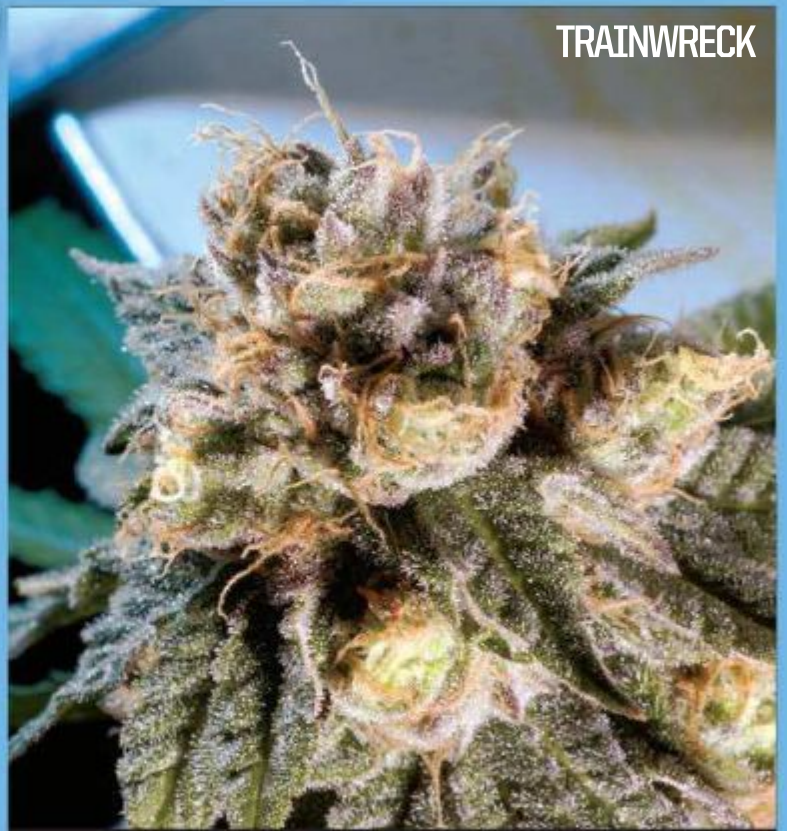
CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$359** (last month: \$373; YTD: \$360)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$418** (\$420, \$429)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$281** (\$298, \$278)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$95** (\$105, \$94)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Birmingham	Mids	\$120
	Mobile	Purple Kush	\$360
		LA Confidential	\$380
ALASKA	Anchorage	White Widow	\$400
		Northern Lights	\$300
FLORIDA	Brevard County Tampa	Sweet Diesel Granddaddy Purps	\$480 \$500
GEORGIA	Johns Creek Macon Savannah	Lavender	\$485
		C-99	\$400
		Lamb's Breath	\$550
HAWAII	Honolulu	White Widow	\$280
ILLINOIS	DuQuoin Rockford	Super Skunk	\$520
		God Bud	\$425
INDIANA	Elkhart	White Widow	\$400
MAINE	Bangor	White Rhino	\$300
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	Chiesel	\$400
		Juicy Fruit	\$400
MICHIGAN	Grand Rapids Newport	Trainwreck	\$350
		Purps	\$420
		Blueberry	\$350
MINNESOTA	Stillwater Winona	Hindu Kush	\$400
		Purple Kush	\$380
MISSISSIPPI	Meridian	Schwag Chronic	\$90 \$450
NEBRASKA	Lincoln	C-99	\$300
		LA Confidential	\$300
NEW YORK	Syracuse New York	Granddaddy Purps	\$500
		Sour Diesel	\$480
NORTH CAROLINA	Greenville	Blue Dream	\$400
		Purple Wreck	\$400
OHIO	Wooster	Sweet Tooth	\$325
OKLAHOMA	Oklahoma City	Blueberry	\$300
		OG Headband	\$300
		Trainwreck	\$290
		Sour Diesel	\$350
OREGON	Portland	Super Lemon Haze	\$275
		G-13	\$260
		Granddaddy Purple	\$260
PENNSYLVANIA	Pittsburgh State College	Blueberry Dutch	\$400
		Mr. Nice	\$375
		Purple Mist	\$410
SOUTH CAROLINA	Lexington	Sensi Star Blue Dream	\$490 \$480
TEXAS	Austin	Sour Diesel	\$480
VERMONT	Burlington	Northern Lights	\$380
		Sweet Island Skunk	\$400
VIRGINIA	Charlottesville	Lemon Kush	\$400
INTERNATIONAL	(prices in Canadian dollars or British pounds)		
CANADA	St. Catharines Toronto	G-Spot Diesel	C\$250
		White Widow	C\$200
SCOTLAND	Aberdeen	Kind	£375



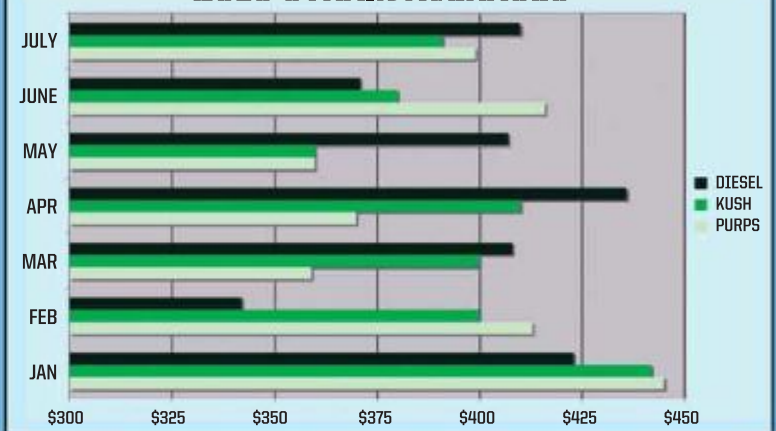
MARKET ANALYSIS

For the first time this year, we have a new strain in the top pot spot. Purps beat out Kush as July's most submitted strain; the last time Purps recorded a first-place finish was in August 2009. Kush's recent run as the THMQ's top submitted strain lasted six consecutive months (January through June 2010)—the longest such streak since we started tracking the top strain submissions in August 2007. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Purps (\$399), Kush (\$391), Diesel (\$410), Blueberry (\$362) and Trainwreck (\$364).

Index Watch: All indices were down from their previous month's average. However, the most significant price drop was only \$17 (in the Mids Index). All indices finished within \$11 of their year-to-date averages. It appears the market is stabilizing after a tumultuous May, in which the US Price Index hit a four-year low.

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2010 STRAIN AVERAGES



Mids - \$120

Birmingham, ALABAMA

"Strain? I live in Alabama and we're just lucky to get weed, let alone anything with a name! Haven't had anything with a name since I lived in Florida 11 years ago!"

Lavender - \$485

Johns Creek, GEORGIA

"Extreme smells of wonderful skunkiness radiate from the jar. It has light purple hints all over the buds, and it may as well be snowing when I grind it up, because kief just pours off the buds! We love this stuff."

Granddaddy Purps - \$500

Syracuse, NEW YORK

"Forest green with beautiful purple hues. Has a very unique, fruity taste and a very strong smoke that burns slow. This extremely sticky bud gives you an uplifting high."

Purple Wreck - \$400

Greenville, NORTH CAROLINA

"Strong, skunky aroma and very dense nuggets with hues of purple. Gets behind your eyes almost instantly!"



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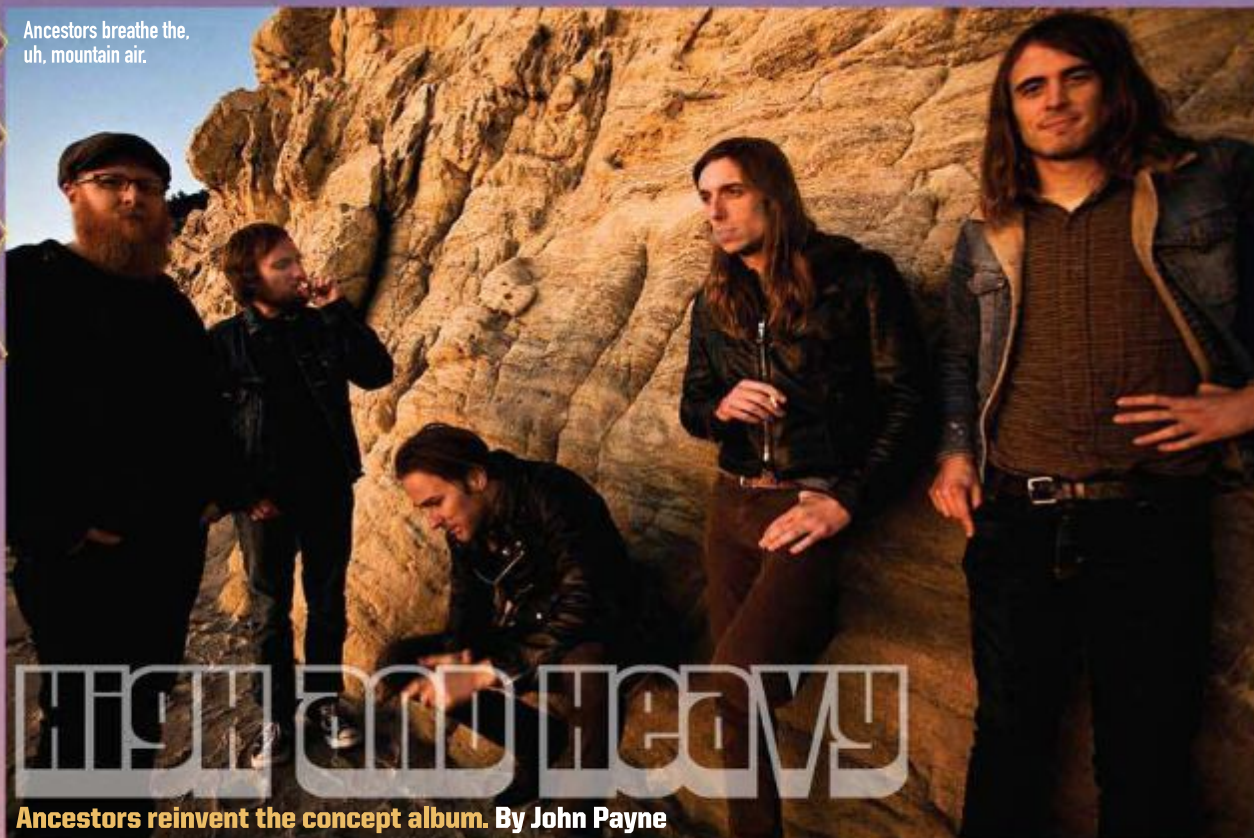


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Ancestors breathe the, uh, mountain air.



Ancestors reinvent the concept album. By John Payne

What Ancestors are, first and foremost, is *heavy*. Then again, they're actually a lot of things, in a way akin to the progressive likes of Pink Floyd and King Crimson back in the early '70s, a time when bands could throw just about anything into their magic teapot, then sit back and watch it blow up—often right in their faces. Foolhardy risk taking is, according to Ancestors, an admirable goal and a righteous one, an honorable and utterly rocking one.

The band—Justin Maranga (guitar, vocals), Nick Long (bass, vocals), Brandon Pierce (drums and gong ... yes, gong), Chico Foley (electronics, keys and vocals) and J. Christopher Watkins (organ, vocals)—has a recent album out on Tee Pee called *Of Sound Mind*. A hairy and ungodly hash of slab-thick stereo-distorted guitar rifferoonery, ambient electronic interludes, soaring (and kinda catchy, even) melodic gambits and a lot of other interesting stuff residing somewhere in between all of the above, *Of Sound Mind* is a way, way broody, real, *real* gloomy, extremely rainy-day-holed-up kinda atmospheric sludgehammer that takes you places and insists that you use your mind along the way.

I have to admit that I was lured in by all the journalist-baiting PR jive about the influences (musical and otherwise) surrounding the album's genesis, such as the abovementioned Floyd and Crimson, along with Neurosis, Miles Davis, Eric Dolphy, Albert Camus and Henry David Thoreau, for God's sake. Not only that, I was given to understand that this was a *concept* album.

But the band's chief theoretician and lyricist, Chico Foley, defends/defines their approach this way: "We knew we would definitely take it somewhere with lyrical premises and ideas, but we were interested in staying away from all of that 'conceptual record' thing, while kind of circling round one specific theme. This record is loosely associated with something which is [called] consciousness, psychology. That's something that's been done a million times before, but we have our own para-

'We all completely condone smoking marijuana. I've smoked it all my life, and it's part of my general makeup and what I offer for the music.'

digms, our own perspectives and instincts."

All of which is fine by me—I'm just devil's-advocating the whole post-punk prejudice that the very idea of rock bands attempting to beat grand opera at its own overblown game is silly and (that most pretentious of rock-crit terms) "pretentious."

"We were kind of afraid of the whole 'art' concept 'cause of how it was mocked originally, like with the prog bands in the '70s, where it became joke-worthy," Foley admits. "We wanted to take it seriously, but we don't really want to be *too* serious, you know?"

These days, if anyone wants to do a concept album, it's a good thing precisely because it was so *verboten* in punk rock's now-moldy past. Also, I like ambition, and I happen to be sick to death of irony and sarcasm—no kidding. But still I wonder: What exactly *is* the concept here? The London-born Foley draws on his experience as a philosophy and poli-sci major at an English university as he attempts to clarify.

"There are basically four main songs on the record, and each song has a specific lyrical idea that has something to do with human psychology," he says, "the first being about diaspora, and why are we moving somewhere—for something or for nothing? Or are we seemingly going nowhere? We were trying to stay away from mythology, but we did refer to the gods of aspiration in general, maybe career or academic or intellectual. 'The Trial' is very romantic, but we tried to make it really loose. 'The Ambrose Law' is about how the parallels of schizophrenia in the human mind may be projected as opposed to how society constructs it; it's about human society as a human function, how some of this comes about from our own pos-

sibly schizophrenic minds ... we're all bipolar to some degree."

Meanwhile, another track, "Mother Animal," seems to deal with the existential absurdity of life—as in, for example, why must we even consider all these complicated things that Ancestors are wrestling with in their songs?

So maybe the time feels right for some big-ass conceptual rock "works" that put you in the mood to brood—for these are, it would seem, long-attention-span times, if only as a brief respite from our collective (and all but certain) tragic ruin. Even so, the band's members are acutely aware that they've got to bring something new to that experience or risk getting hockpooey'd right off the stage.

"There is kind of a revival of these kinds of emotions and musical ideas from the early '70s," Foley admits. "But for us, we're concerned how a lot of that

has been rehashed by some bands and there isn't really any new form of direction. To aspire to [be like] some of these bands, who were unique and knew what they were doing, yet just trying to replicate a sound as opposed to being unique yourself, is kind of pointless. Music evolves—you might have all these influences, but throw 'em all together and get it really *mutated*."

At this point, bandmate J. Christopher Watkins chimes in: "What we like about a lot of the '70s bands is that they were doing something new and original—and rather than replicate what they did stylistically, we thought we'd replicate what they did as innovators. That's the hard part, obviously."

All of which is true enough—except that now, marketing yourself to a specific niche (doom, metal, psych, prog, whatever) is a survival tool that every musician must have; accepting that you'll be categorized is simply part of the game.

"It always pops up," Watkins says mournfully, "especially the way communication is now—everyone wants a reference point, and there's no way around it. It's probably best to not think about it."

"We would hate to be called a stoner band, for example," Foley adds, "but we all completely condone smoking marijuana. I've smoked it all my life, and it's part of my general makeup and what I offer for the music."

"I think it's completely necessary," Watkins says. "Not so much for writing, but in general, to change your perspective, when I get really entrenched and am being hyper-critical."

And even as we speak, Ancestors are banging away at their latest opus, whose title, rationale and theoretical content are still shrouded in mystery. ✨

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Sweeter Flowers Are Worth More

Sweeter flowers are yours when you boost your crop's taste, potency and aroma by furnishing anthocyanins, isoflavonoids, polyphenols, isoterpenes and tannins found in cranberry and grape extracts. Growers using these compounds report that a sudden bouquet of pleasant scent arises from their flowers within moments of the compounds being fed to plants in water ... and ... after harvest, you and your friends will enjoy the extra-sweet aroma and taste that your flowers provide (Plus, there'll be more flowers to enjoy too!).

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So how can you get this extensive menu of crop-boosting compounds you've just found out about?

Fortunately, Advanced Nutrients scientists have successfully managed the complex task of sourcing, processing, and combining all these aminos, carbs, and vitamins into Bud Candy so you get bigger, sweeter buds right away.

Best of all, you're getting two products in one because Bud Candy gives you everything in Sweet Leaf and CarboLoad, but it also gives you a lot more in an easy to use formula. Whether your plants are in bloom phase right now, or you're preparing for bloom phase, this is the time to procure 100% organic Bud Candy and get cotton candy taste, fatter buds, and stronger plants.



Fast Facts

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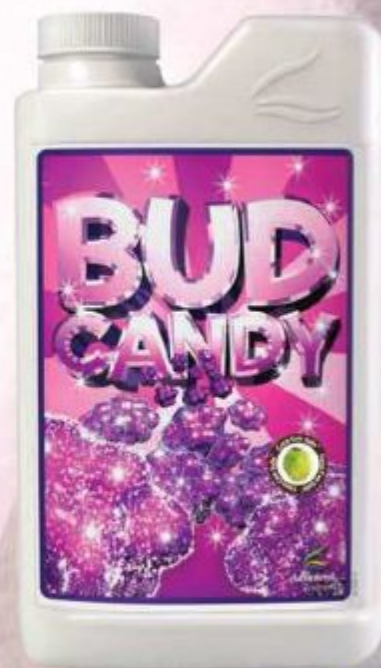
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CLASS TRIP

Fifty years later, Ralph Metzner remembers Leary, Harvard and LSD.

By Jonah Raskin

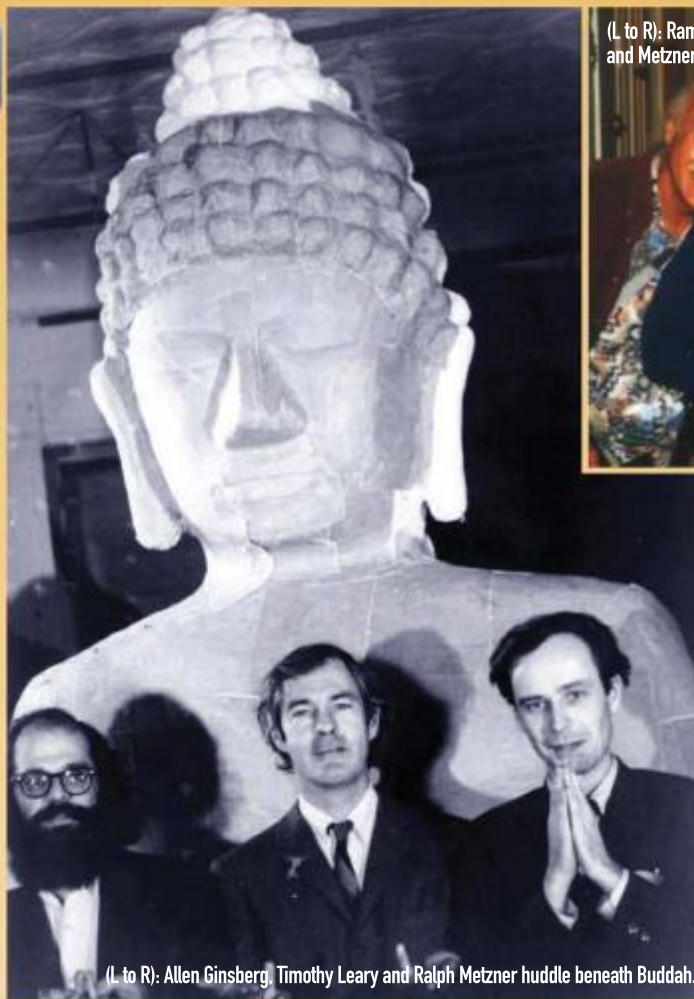
Whether you're stoned or straight right now, picture this, if you will: white-haired Ralph Metzner—Mr. Psychedelic himself—on a rainy winter night before an audience of mostly older men and women who have come to hear him describe his halcyon days with Dr. Timothy Leary, as recounted in his new book, *Birth of a Psychedelic Culture: Conversations About Leary, the Harvard Experiment, Millbrook, and the Sixties*, which Metzner and co-author Ram Dass wrote with the assistance of Gary Bravo, the chief psychiatrist for Sonoma County Mental Health.

Lilla Weinberger, who owns the bookstore where Metzner's speaking, has just introduced him as "an icon of the 1960s" and "a prophet in his own country." Wearing glasses, a sweater and a scarf, Metzner hardly looks like an icon of the '60s drug culture, but the description doesn't bother him. He's too modest to present himself in such grandiose terms, in part because he spent years at Harvard around self-proclaimed and self-aggrandizing icons like Leary and Ram Dass (who was born into the world as Richard Alpert). Indeed, for one of the avatars of the psychedelic revolution, Metzner is awfully straight.

Leary was his all-time favorite professor back when Metzner was a student at Harvard. It was a time when almost every professor in the psychology department, including the behaviorist B.F. Skinner, was tinkering madly with lab rats. To Metzner, who turned 24 in 1960, taking LSD seemed a lot more fun and, um, mind-expanding than watching rats run around in a maze. Now, 50 years after he first started exploring psychedelic culture, Metzner's not sorry that he dropped acid at Harvard or devoted all of his years since then to examining his own life. The unexamined life, he has long thought, isn't worth living.

At 74, Ralph Metzner is a hardy survivor of the culture wars, the drug culture, and America's seemingly endless War on Drugs—about which, not surprisingly, he doesn't have a good word to say. "You can't make war against *drugs*; all the drug wars have been wars against *people*," he insists. "Human beings are the casualties." The author of over half a dozen books and the editor of half a dozen more, Metzner—who is also the former dean of the California Institute for Integral Studies—has finally come into his own. Out from under the shadow of Leary, he's receiving the recognition he deserves as a pioneer in the field of psychedelic culture and a voyager into the realm of human consciousness. To his credit (and to the amazement of the audience at Readers' Books), Metzner remembers the '60s in vivid detail. It helps that he writes nearly everything down and talks into a tape recorder too. So he recalls the day that Leary first famously proclaimed: "Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out."

Later that week, over chai tea and a blueberry

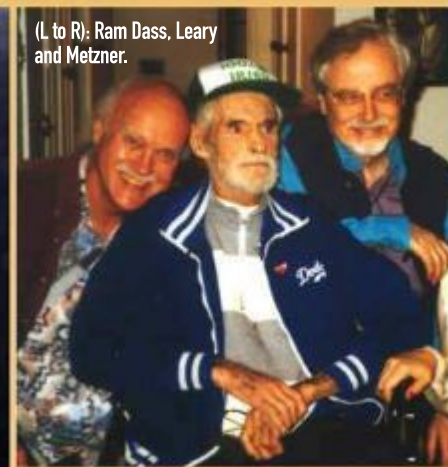


(L to R): Allen Ginsberg, Timothy Leary and Ralph Metzner huddle beneath Buddha.

When the Merry Pranksters gave LSD to thousands of hippies Metzner cringed. 'That was my worst nightmare come true. I didn't think that people should take LSD indiscriminately.'

scone in Santa Rosa, wearing the same dark sweater and scarf that he wore at Readers' Books, Metzner unpacks Leary's oft-repeated mantra. "What he really meant," he says, "is that we need to break out of the boxes we're in, get away from confining ideologies and get into a deeper awareness of reality." Metzner says that, to Leary's catchy slogan, he added a phrase of his own: "... and Come Back." In the very next breath, he says: "Leary didn't like my addition." But "dropping out" was never Metzner's idea of the be-all or end-all of a "be-in"—or, for that matter, of life itself. When Leary broke the law and went to jail, Metzner went the other way. When Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters gave LSD to thousands of hippies in the "Hashbury," Metzner cringed. "That was my worst nightmare come true," he says. "I didn't think that people should take LSD indiscriminately."

Granted, Metzner did drop out for a time; he also used LSD and went all the way to India. But he came back with a bang and put himself to work at a variety of jobs: at Mendocino State Hospital, at Stanford University's Counseling Center and at Kaiser Permanente in Hayward, CA. To help his patients, he used some of the tricks he'd learned at Harvard. He also learned, on his own, to appreciate balance and respect individual boundaries. "I once suggested to my father, whose drug of choice was alcohol, that he take mind-altering drugs," Metzner says. "He told me, 'I don't want to



(L to R): Ram Dass, Leary and Metzner.

alter or expand my consciousness.' Fair enough—I have always respected that point of view and have never forced anyone to take drugs." Metzner's father, who was a book lover and a peace-loving man, was drafted into the German Army in 1944, near the very end of the Second World War, and saw its horrors up close.

"I was born in Berlin in 1937 and lived in Germany during World War II," Metzner recalls now. "My mother was English, my father German. I remember bombs dropping on the city. After the war, I went to England with my mother, attended boarding school in Scotland, and went to Oxford to study psychology." Metzner's wartime experiences as a child helped him to understand post-traumatic

stress disorder (PTSD) and enabled him to heal emotionally and physically wounded soldiers when they returned home from combat in Vietnam. This understanding also aided him when he wrote *The Roots of War and Domination* (2008), which was published by his own nonprofit, the Green Earth Foundation. It's probably his most socially conscious book, though most of his work aims to heal societal ills.

Metzner has ideas for a half-dozen more books, and since the Green Earth Foundation will publish them uncensored, he says that he feels truly uninhibited for the first time in his life. "It's the greatest liberation of my life," he explains. "Self-publishing has freed me to say what I want to say." Metzner is also getting ready for two big workshops that he'll conduct, one in Lucerne, Switzerland, that he calls "Janus and the Gateway of the Heart," and the other in Petaluma, CA, not far from the house in Sonoma where he lives with his wife and daughter. To help participants who attend his workshops and conferences, he uses shamanistic rituals, meditation, yoga and—surprise!—no drugs. He calls his approach "alchemical divination," and when asked why he chose such an esoteric phrase, he replies: "I don't like to use words that people know the meanings of. I want them to seem strange, and I want participants to be curious. But what I do isn't esoteric—it's really quite ordinary." ✨

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THE FIX IS IN

An independent film looks at the drug life from user to dealer to rehab.



Yes, all the herb in the film is real.

The French playwright and poet Jean Cocteau once said, "Film will only become an art when its materials are as inexpensive as pencil and paper." Filmmaker Tao Ruspoli not only took this to heart, but painted it on the side of a Technicolor school bus that served for many years as the workshop for the documentaries he made as the founder of LAFCO (the Los Angeles Film Cooperative). It still informs his narrative feature-film debut, *Fix*, which co-stars his wife, Olivia Wilde (*House*, *Tron Legacy*), and Shawn Andrews (*Dazed and Confused*). Loosely based on incidents sur-

rounding Tao's younger brother Bartolomeo, *Fix* follows two documentary filmmakers named Milo and Bella as they race around Los Angeles trying to raise \$5,000 to enroll Milo's brother Leo in a drug-rehab program before the day ends and he's sent back to jail. From there, Ruspoli creates his story out of whatever he sees.

"I gravitated towards documentary because I was very excited about a very personal style of filmmaking that's possible now with digital technology," he explains. "In the same way a painter paints or a writer writes, a filmmaker can now

make a film."

These possibilities allowed Ruspoli to express unorthodox yet deeply refreshing perspectives on addiction. For starters, Bella and Milo have no problem with weed—in fact, they attempt to sell a pound to raise the money. (Tao has also shot an ad spot for pot lawyer Allison Margolin, "LA's dopest attorney"—and yes, in case you were wondering, the pot in the film *is* real.) While the movie ultimately presents no easy "fix" for addiction, Ruspoli himself derives his view on drugs from

his father, Prince Dado Ruspoli, who successfully managed a lifelong addiction to opium and inveighed against the refinement and removal of psychoactive compounds from their host plants. "My father lived to be 80 years old," Ruspoli notes. "And [for him], opium was part of a culture, the same way drinking wine is part of a culture, the same way marijuana can be part of a culture. Because these are natural things that come from the earth—they have a tradition. And also," he adds, "nature doesn't make these substances ridiculously strong." —Justin Hampton

BUDS 'N' BREW

Red Fang does it high and heavy.

On rock's evolutionary scale, Red Fang's marker lies somewhere in the smoldering chasm between Black Sabbath and Black Flag. Assembling four years ago in Portland, OR, guitarist/vocalist Bryan Giles, bassist/vocalist Aaron Beam, guitarist David Sullivan and drummer John Sherman were already well acquainted with one another, having played together in various outfits within the city's crowded music scene. Yet it was only after they clicked as Red Fang that the quartet finally found their sound—a gritty mix of distorted, furiously heavy rock influenced by groups like My Bloody Valentine, the Melvins and King Crimson, one that has often been difficult to categorize.

"For a while, it was 'Northwest street metal,'" says Sherman, describing one of the many pigeonholes that Red Fang was relegated to. "We're not like Mastodon—we're not very technical, and we don't really think we're a metal band." How about 'stoner rock'? "Maybe," Sherman quips with a smile: "Does 'stoner rock' mean it's rock'n'roll that you enjoy while you're stoned?"

Red Fang released their eponymous full-length debut in 2009 on the boutique label Sargent House, but it didn't really gain traction until the video for their sonic single "Prehistoric Dog" began making

Not exactly a boy band.



the viral rounds, earning them a reputation as a buds 'n' brew band. The clip—a heshier take on Monty Python meets *The Evil Dead*, in which the band dons armor made up of beer cans—garnered almost 250,000 views on YouTube. Soon after, tours with Big Business and Valient Thorr solidified their place among rawk's dirty elite.

They're now mixing their eagerly anticipated sophomore release with Vance Powell (Raconteurs, *Dead Weather*), and Giles promises that

"the new album will surprise people in some ways." Sherman adds: "It's not a departure in styles, but there are songs that sound totally different from other songs, and it goes through several different moods."

"Oddly enough, the songs that have the most to do with weed are the oldest one and the newest one," says Beam. "It's sort of like we left weed, but then realized we missed it and came back to it again." —Zena Tsarfin

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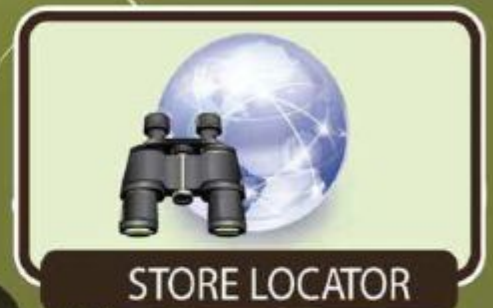
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SMOKE-OUT AT THE CANNABIS CORRAL

How Weed Won the West
Directed by Kevin Booth
(Sacred Cow Productions)



From the makers of *American Drug War* comes a highly anticipated feature-length documentary about the med-pot movement in California. Director Kevin Booth investigates the sprawling medical-marijuana industry in depth, tracing the supply line from farm to dispensary to patient while tackling the contentious politics surrounding the business from a decidedly pro-pot perspective.

Alex Jones, the popular conspiracy theorist and radio talk-show host, appears throughout *How Weed Won the West* to disentangle the twisted web of government control and monopoly capitalism that fiercely contests any loosening of the nation's punishing anti-pot laws. Jones, who admits to not smoking himself, nevertheless opines that "marijuana prohibition is being used to turn America into a nightmare police state" through unconstitutional federal policies that funnel citizens into privately owned for-profit prisons.

Booth also talks extensively with Jeff Jones, proprietor of the Organica Collective, a Marina del Rey-based medical-marijuana provider that has faced raids and arrests by the DEA. The Organica staff takes the filmmaker through a re-enactment of the trauma of the latest raid, including the shooting of their pit bull. (Fortunately, the dog has since recovered.)

How Weed Won the West features prominent activists addressing various aspects of the state's current and evolving medical-marijuana policy—including Ethan Nadelman, head of the Drug Policy Alliance; Don Duncan



Director Kevin Booth (middle) flanked by two growers.

of Americans for Safe Access; Rudy Reyes, burn survivor and activist; and Brett Bogue, cancer survivor and founder of Apothecary Seeds—as well as doctors, lawyers and law-enforcement officers. Shelley Martinez, a former WWE wrestler and actress, relates how injuries suffered in the ring left her debilitated and addicted to muscle relaxants, which almost killed her. She has since become an enthusiastic supporter of medical cannabis, especially a strain called Pineapple Kush.

With a running time of almost one hour and 45 minutes, *How Weed Won the West* can feel unfocused at times, and it includes very little history of the struggle to legitimize medical marijuana before the passage of Prop. 215. This lack of context could leave uninformed viewers a bit confused. So think of the film not as a comprehensive history, but rather as a preserved cross-section of the hectic and disorienting reality of the emerging medical-marijuana industry in the West, and then hang on for a wild ride.—Murphy Green

LIARS

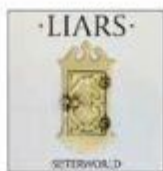
Sisterworld
(Mute)



Los Angeles is a confusing, alienating, *big* stack of shit. But it's also a good place to dream in, and as good a place as any for Liars to get real lost.

The confounding Liars, who've released several albums of resolutely avant-garde rock-aligned music, now proffer *Sisterworld*, a sort of concept album detailing the trio's experiences in LA, and all those near-beautiful dreamers who populate its nightclubs and bowling alleys. Songs like "Scarecrows on a Killer Slant," "The Overachievers," "Goodnight Everything" and "I Can Still See an Outside World" are abstruse collages of guitar, vocals, electronics and drum-thump that provide the adventurous listener with obscurely hopeful loads of visual and aural impact. Bewildering by conscious (and maybe unconscious) design, the music's dizzying yet oddly exhilarating dimness, like most of the band's previous work, is kustom-krafted to impart a sense that *something's happening*, as befits the reality of life, death and resurrection in the City of (Broken) Angels.

Liars' echoed-out barrages can garage-stomp like real champs, though, and *Sisterworld* is like a Mayan maze of sonic and lyrical ambiguity that pummels and cajoles, then flits between shadows, a haze of maddening thought/action/afterthought that plows ahead while darting jittery glances down dank alleys after a tiny beam of light you only thought you saw There's a Liars-type symmetry to all this, and the album's major achievement is how it does seem to make at least a version of sense after a few listens. Like LA itself, Liars are all about how to create a world that travels underneath—you know, a place in which to really *exist*. *Sisterworld* is an attempt to get there.—John Payne



KOTTONMOUTH KINGS

Long Live the Kings
(Suburban Noize)



Everyone who's reading this most likely has bad habits of some sort—otherwise, LA stoner-rap vets the Kottonmouth Kings would've packed up their canny conglomeration of weed-friendly musical styles and gone into rehab long ago. But just when people may have started to think that these guys had smoked their last, *Long Live the Kings* emerges from the Suburban Noize camp with a renewed sense of boundless enthusiasm. A primary cause for the Kings' second wind is the presence of their newest member, the Oregon-based Dirtball—and clearly, his quick wit and even quicker tongue help inject new energy into the band's now-familiar formula of party anthems and drug-positive rhyming.

That said, those who never really liked the Kottonmouth Kings probably won't start now, as very little else has changed with them. Just as soon as they've crowned Dirtball on the bombastic opening track, they're jetting him out to Vegas on a surf-rock riff ("Lucky Day"), flipping off cops with the Insane Clown Posse ("Fuck tha Police") and, of course, getting wasted throughout. They do pause to reflect effectively on the fear that blocks pot legalization ("Reefer Madness"), as well as on the passing of Bianca Halstead, Daddy X's former drummer in his old group, the Humble Gods (the somber, acoustic "Kill the Pain"). But pondering the Big Questions has never been KMK's forte. After 15 years, it's still all about the party for them, and if they aren't the last men standing, *Long Live the Kings* shows that it won't be for lack of trying.—Justin Hampton



STUPID PARTY

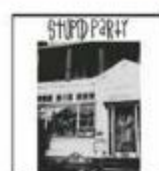
Stupid Party
(Freedom School)



Bubbling up from the toxic, PCB-laced slime pits of Brooklyn, NY, comes this strange combo who call themselves Stupid Party. The sort of mental deficiencies referred to in their moniker I believe are of the chosen variety—stupid through drugs or maybe poor diet—as opposed to being the result of some birth defect.

What you get here is a deluge of acid-rain noise rooted in the sort of old-time hardcore that used to veer unapologetically towards the weird—stuff like Black Flag and Hüsker Dü and even the first Meat Puppets album, the one that only a proud handful profess to like. With it also comes a bunch of '70s metal riffage that slows things down here and there so you can catch your breath. These guys are at their best when they get the measurements of this formula right and then fag out long enough to throw the slightest hint of a melody on top, as in the songs "Sludger," "Binz" and "Grind."

Picking apart the Stupid Party sound is kind of like asking what goes into a hot dog. Drummer Johnny Norton handles the changes well, and bass player Chuck Van Violence runs more than he walks over the fret board. Singer/guitarist Cory Feierman doesn't seem to care whether you understand a word he's saying (I think at one point he sings "nothing is real"), but it's all in good fun. As the liner notes clearly stipulate, "Fuck 'em if they can't take a toke."—Chris Simunek



"BLOWS THE LID OFF A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY ON THE VERGE."

- DANNY DANKO, HIGH TIMES MAGAZINE

THE NEW FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY FROM KEVIN BOOTH FEATURING ALEX JONES

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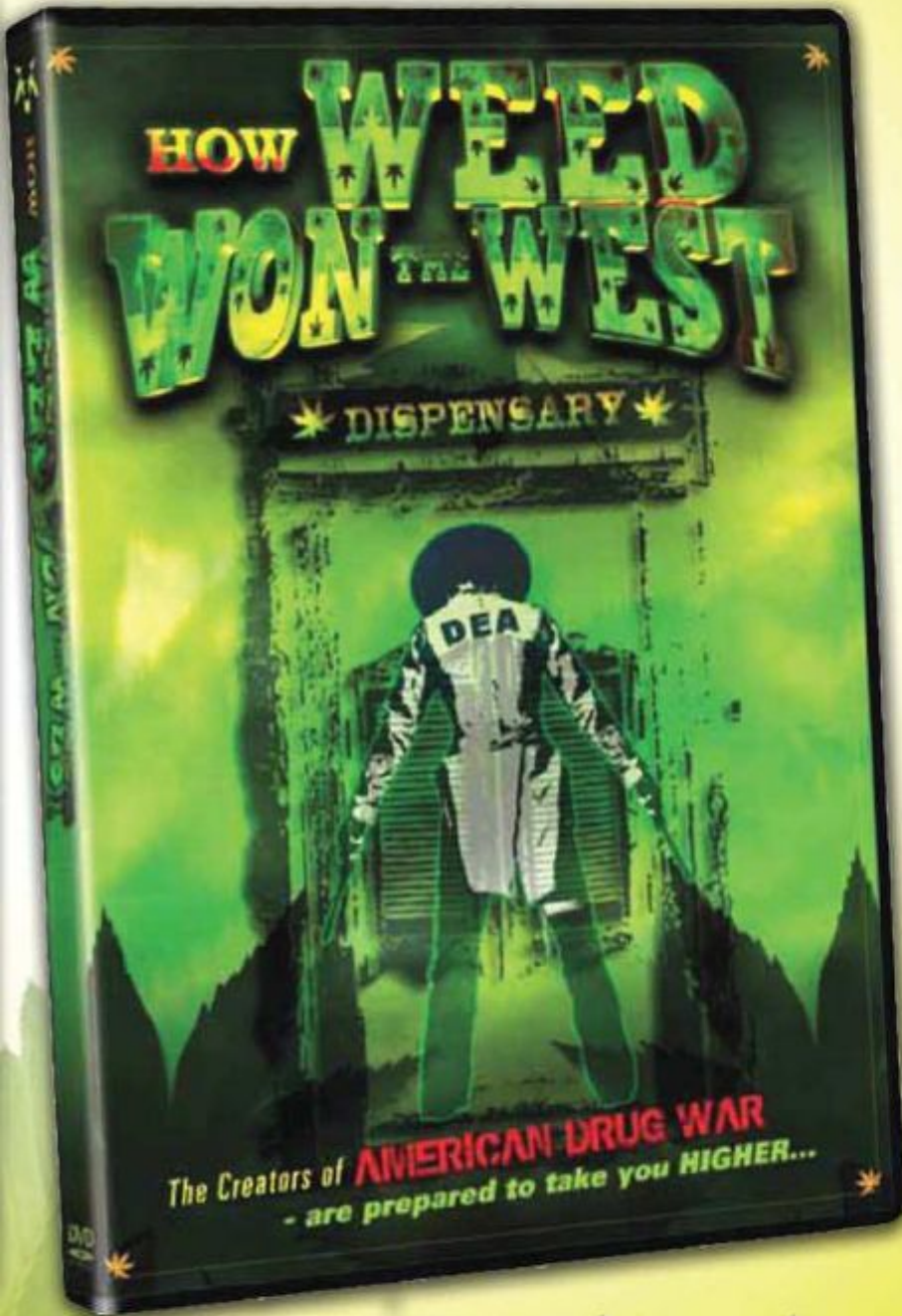
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HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH THE DIVINE CRIME



Featuring the former backing band for H.R. from Bad Brains and funk-ed-out vocalist Ameerah, the Divine Crime is an all-star crew with a high-energy show, real song-writing power and a contagious vibe.

Offering true musicianship as well as serious eye candy, this new group is known for fusing reggae, roots, dub, dancehall, soul and jam music into a seamless combination. Heavy and danceable grooves with layers of deep bass, synth textures, loud, rippin' guitar and heart-filled melodies define their sound. The Divine Crime's mission is to empower every kind of music lover, throw fear and complacency out the door, and rock it out no matter who's staring.

Even before the release of their first album, the band had created a buzz on the

SoCal music scene, developing a loyal fan base in their stomping grounds of LA, Ventura and Long Beach. And in less than two short years, they've already had the opportunity to play with Barrington Levy, Yellowman, Pato Banton, Steel Pulse, Bushman, Rebelution, PYRX and Tribal Seeds, just to name just a few.

You can purchase their newly released 11-song album *Obliquity*, featuring dub mixes by legendary producer the Scientist, from all the major digital outlets (iTunes, Amazon, CD Baby, etc.) as well as select retail stores throughout California. The Divine Crime is currently touring the West Coast and beyond in support of their new album. For more information, including tour dates and audio samples, check out hightimes.com/thedivinecrime.

MISS JUNE

NAME: Kati **AGE:** 20
PROFILE: Katijane420
OCCUPATION: Student
CITY: Modesto, CA



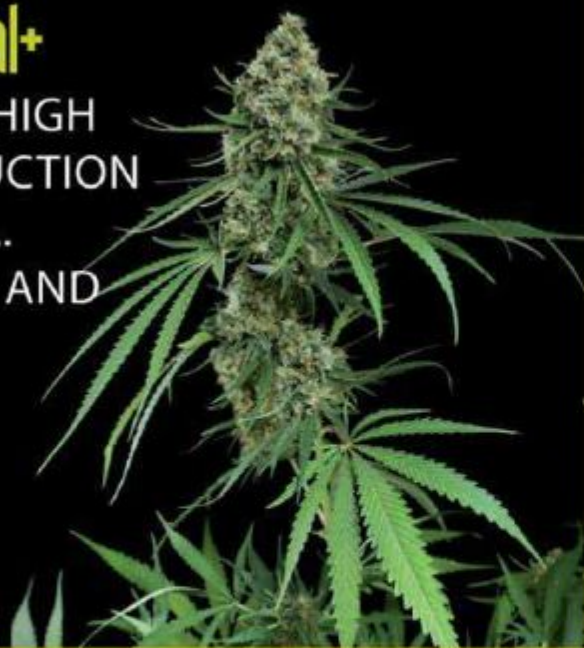
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AUSTIN HEAP AND THE TWITTER REVOLUTION

Twitter can be used to express the trivial, but it can also be used to communicate the meaningful.

By Paul Krassner

This June marks the first anniversary of the uprisings against the rigged presidential election in Iran. At the time, a 25-year-old San Francisco cyber-activist named Austin Heap saw a tweet calling attention to CNN's failure to report those protests. He created a website that anyone on Twitter could access—and when Iran's Guardian Council started monitoring tweets, other members of this instant community were able to report that fact to him. "The revolution may not be televised," Heap said, "but it will be tweeted." Recently, I had a few questions for him.



Austin Heap

'It's disturbing, the amount of force the Feds found necessary to use in response to a few tweets.'

Mel Brooks once said that 95 percent of everything is crap. What would you say is the ratio between the trivial and the meaningful on Twitter?

I think it's difficult to balance the trivial and the meaningful on Twitter. In some ways, it's a vicious circle, a self-contained hype machine that relies on knee-jerk reactions and, to a certain extent, sensationalism. This is because there's a pervasive belief in the mainstream media that Twitter is changing things. That notion alone has become the story, and they seek out very isolated examples to bolster this proposition.

At the same time, Twitter can provide social causes an insane amount of momentum in a shockingly small period of time—especially those that haven't been "approved" by the establishment. What's more, it can open that cloistered establishment up: Corporations stand to gain greatly by interacting with their customers in this medium, giving them a direct channel of feedback and making sure they're happy. There's scale to Twitter, so Twitter will always have some win.

What was your role in the Iran/Twitter connection?

I am one of many people who saw the struggle that many in Iran were going through after the June 12th elections and thought I could do something, however small, to help ensure that those in Iran were able to bypass the IRI's [Islamic Repub-

lic of Iran] filtering of the Internet. A basic human right, for me, includes having a strong, secure and stable means of communication, regardless of the communication's contents. Twitter provided a phenomenal means of communicating and organizing with others who were interested in Iran, and for citizen journalists and activists inside Iran to move information out. Then they blocked Twitter—that's when I got really involved.

An anarchist in New York was arrested for listening to a police scanner and relaying information on Twitter to help protesters avoid heavily armed cops—ironically, the same activity the State Department praised when it happened in Iran. What's your take on that case?

It's disturbing, the amount of force the Feds found necessary to use in response to a few tweets. This person was reposting publicly available information. If posting recounts from the police scanner is illegal, then bust him for that. But using an obscure law that's historically been used to shut up dissidents is a step too far—not to mention the government followed up by saying, "Look! Look at his evil reading materials!"

People shouldn't destroy private or even public property while protesting. Bottom line: He doesn't deserve to be treated like this. He didn't *do* anything—at least when people inside Iran were getting unique information out to the world using Twitter, they were breaking their inane local law—not to mention anything *close* to something that would violate the anti-riot laws. Hopefully, this will serve as a launch pad to get rid of these meaningless, cherry-picked laws.

Paul Krassner has been busy exploring pot-related Twitter sites for growing information, legalization news and the location of merchants selling it. His award-winning collection, *Pot Stories for the Soul*, is now available at paulkrassner.com.

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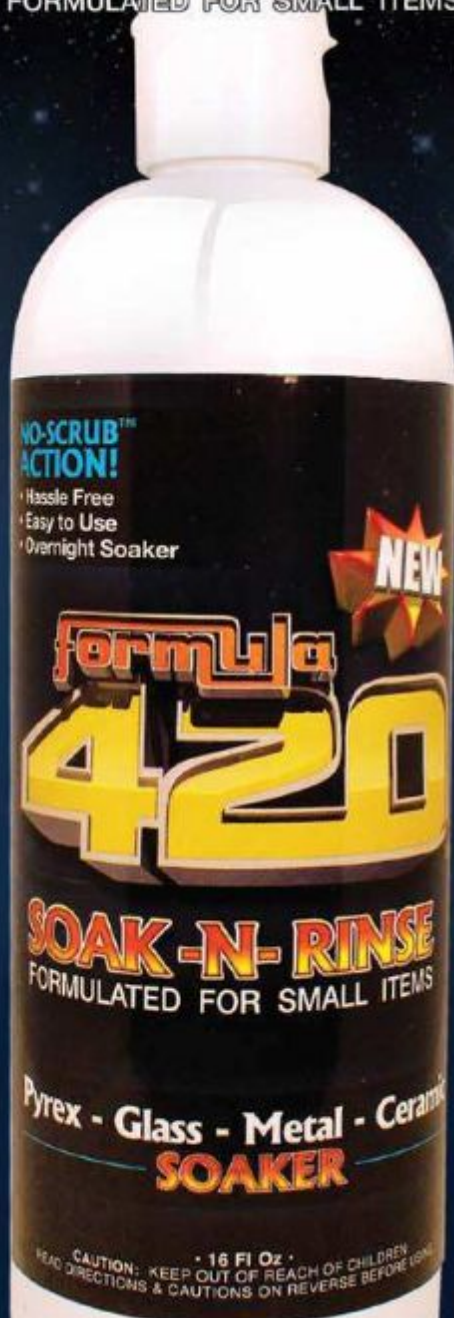
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BY BOBBY BLACK

FEELS LIKE THE FIRST TIME

Bobby recalls his first dance with Mary Jane.

"Tell me about the first time you smoked pot."

It's a question I've posed to just about every person I've interviewed for *HIGH TIMES* over the years. So this month, I thought I'd turn the tables and share with you the tale of *my* first experience rockin' the ganj.

The year was 1984, and I was attending Seth Low junior high. I was a shy, quiet kid without many friends, searching for an identity and my place in the world. I soon found that identity in my parents' vinyl collection: From the first moment I laid eyes on the long-haired, bellbottom-clad figures pictured inside the albums of Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath, I knew I wanted to be just like them. But as I began to seek out kindred spirits my own age, I quickly realized that there were only three other rockers in my entire school—the three "delinquents" that all of my teachers warned us to stay away from. There was William, a scrawny, pale Irish kid with greasy, shoulder-length reddish hair who wore plain white undershirts and frayed flannels. There was his best friend Felix, a husky Hispanic dude with long, Bril-o-y hair who wore mostly combat boots and camouflage. And then there was Spade.

Eddie "Spade" Spadinsky was the epitome of a hoodlum. His trademark was a black motorcycle jacket that had his namesake symbol spray-painted in red on the back, with the words "Death to Posers" scrawled underneath. He wore it every day—even in the summer. Legend had it that he'd been left back twice, which made sense considering that he was the only guy in school with a mustache, and spent more time in the dean's office than the dean did. But no matter how many times Spade got in trouble, he'd come in the next day with that same smirk and attitude. He wasn't afraid of the teachers, the security guards, his parents or anyone else as far as I could tell. He did exactly what he wanted, and nobody told him different.

I'd never seen guys like these before. To me, they may as well have *been* Black Sabbath. I watched them from afar each day at lunch as they gathered by the dumpsters in the courtyard—far away from everyone else, long hair blowing in the wind, eyes always scanning for security guards, smoking cigarettes and laughing at all the kids running around playing their silly games. Now, I had no desire to get in trouble, but for reasons I couldn't comprehend at the time, I wanted nothing more than to be one of them. So one Saturday afternoon, I rode my bike halfway across Brooklyn—to the only headshop I knew of—and blew my allowance on a denim jacket with a Zeppelin back patch and a bunch of pins and patches. As I hoped, when I got to school the next week decked out in my new rock



gear, they took notice. My heart inched up into my throat as they marched toward me and sized me up.

"Well, well, looks like we got ourselves a little Led-head here!" Spade said. "So what's your favorite Zep song, junior?"

I was terrified, but I tried to play it cool.

"Dazed and Confused," I answered.

All three of them broke out laughing.

"Dazed and Confused, huh?" Spade repeated mockingly. "We'll see about that. Come with us." They led me out of the schoolyard and down the block, then pulled me down into an alley under an apartment building and whipped out a thin, funny-shaped cigarette.

"You wanna get dazed?" Spade asked, offering me the joint. "Suck on this."

It was like a scene from an after-school special. I had no idea what marijuana was or what to expect, but I wasn't about to chicken out. I took a few small tokes, then coughed for about two minutes straight as the guys looked on and laughed. Once my eyes were nice and glassy, Felix pulled off his headphones and put them over my ears.

"Now ... check *this* out," he said, pressing play on his Walkman.

"This" turned out to be Metallica's "Fight Fire With Fire." Until that moment, the heaviest music I'd ever heard was Black Sabbath. But after getting high for the first time and listening to *Ride the Lightning*, there was no turning back. After that, Spade and the boys took me under their wing, and before long my hair was halfway down my back and I was spending my weekend nights in the park with them—blasting metal from our boom boxes and passing joints.

Of course, I didn't start smoking heavily until much later in high school, and unlike Eddie, I kept up my A average and stayed out of detention. But my exposure to weed helped open my mind and awaken the independent, rebellious spirit I still carry with me to this day. Sure, you might be tempted to say that I was a victim of peer pressure, but in retrospect, my first smoke served as a rite of passage for me—a gateway not to harder drugs, but to harder music and broader horizons. To paraphrase Hunter Thompson, I wouldn't recommend it for everyone, but it's always worked for me. ✨

Check out more *Almost Infamous* online at hightimes.com/bobbyblack.



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COLO

Growing Big in the Rockies

Colorado continues its expansion of the cannabis economy as the number of new medical gardens escalates.

Story & photos by Dan Skye

30,000 watts of light, suspended on cables, can be raised or lowered.

Twenty-year-old Brittany has just begun a new career in the garden.

RADICAL

Rocky Mountain State politicians and law enforcement continue to dicker with Amendment 20, the voter-approved initiative that made safe access to medical marijuana part of the state's constitution in 2000. Colorado's leadership within the cannabis community has been savvy and outspoken, fiercely resistant to any alteration of historic law. Unfortunately, those in power like to use it.

As of this writing, Colorado legislators have made considerable headway in the quest to impose restrictions on the flourishing industry. In late March, HB10-1284 was approved by the House Judiciary Committee, a bill that actually mandates "Medical Marijuana Enforcement Investigators," who can perform warrantless searches of dispensaries. It also creates a state medical marijuana licensing board run by the Department of Revenue, not the Department of Health. Additionally, it imposes background checks on dispensary owners and a bit more scrutiny of patients. An amendment, that would have allowed veterans suffering from post traumatic stress disorder to be able to use medical marijuana, was rejected by state lawmakers. They indicated that they shouldn't be making medical decisions for people. Obviously, it never occurred to them that adding restrictions to Amendment 20 is exactly that.

Many activists support the bill stating that the burgeoning industry needs regulation. The legal wrangling continues and the bill must undergo several more votes in other committees before it reaches the governor's desk.

Meanwhile, the proliferation of state-grown cannabis marches on. The expression "you can't put the cat back in the bag" has never had more meaning. The cannabis industry is growing at a lightning-fast pace and will continue to grow despite political maneuvering. Moreover, there is no shortage of new recruits eager to jump into canna-businesses.



Plants are arranged on risers in a serpentine pattern.





The Marisol Therapeutics greenhouse provides top medicine for Coloradoans.



Clean greenhouse Diesel from Marisol.

Take 20-year-old Brittany. She grew up in a relatively poor family in Nevada. She received secretarial training through Job Corps and moved to Colorado just two years ago to start her new job in Denver. She says, "All I really knew about marijuana was that I liked smoking it. I have asthma, and marijuana helps open up my lungs. But once I moved here, I gradually met people and started working with Colorado NORML. I began to learn what this plant can do."

When she met a group of gardeners who had taken ownership of a small warehouse in the suburbs, she decided that she had found her niche. Brittany quit her secretary gig and submitted herself to the tutelage of this consortium of gardeners. She now serves as an on-site cultivation apprentice making \$15 per hour. Her duties include interfacing with patients and making deliveries to those who are unable to travel. In the garden, her studies have been intensive. She is heavily engaged in producing clones and has recently begun creating her own strains.

"This has been my university. I'm learning all about soil and nutrients," says Brittany. "Because harvest here is continuous, I'm constantly trimming and preparing medicine. It's a hands-on education."

A spokesman for the co-op describes the group's massive indoor garden as the "systematic, commercial cultivation of

medical marijuana."

"We follow Colorado law to the letter," he says. "We are regulated and controlled. We're trying to be a model of efficiency and cleanliness so patients can acquire the best medicine possible. Seriously, would you want to buy your cannabis if it was grown in a basement, or would you rather be assured that absolutely everything has been done to produce the finest medicine possible?"

Because this garden provides medicine for 65 patients and is in the process of opening its own dispensary, the growers have opted to stay in the shadows. Even though they're theoretically covered by Colorado law, the DEA has been making its presence known by busting several individuals and grow ops in the state that were a bit too visible. In this uncertain atmosphere, the wisest course for major cultivation operations is to stay under wraps, at least for the time being.

However, under these particular wraps, a brilliantly conceived garden grows robustly. The plants are arranged on two-foot risers in a serpentine pattern, with the plants that are nearest to harvest at the end of the line. The formation allows the gardeners easy access to plants from any direction. Above, the garden is showered with 30,000 watts of light via Hortilux high-pressure sodium (HPS) bulbs that nudge the plants into flowering. The lights are attached to steel cables and can be lowered and raised on a

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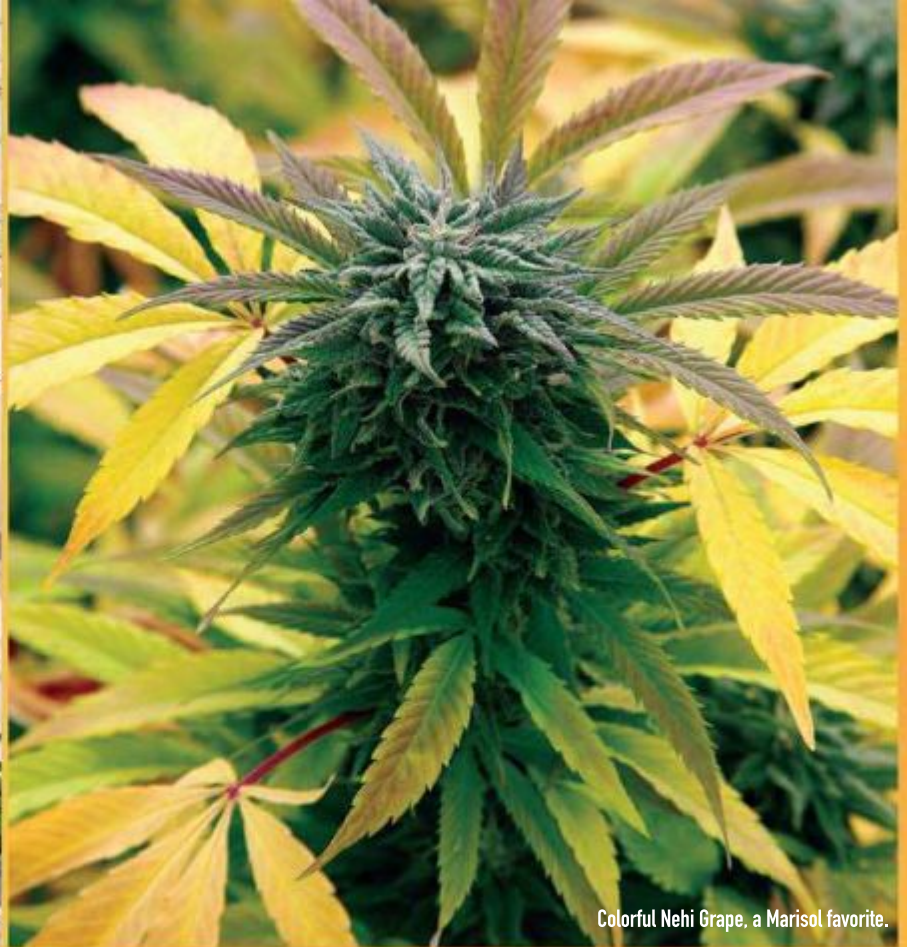


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Michael Stetler waters hundreds of plants by hand.



Colorful Nehi Grape, a Marisol favorite.

pulley system in order to accommodate fluctuations in growth. An ingenious system for producing CO₂ has been devised to promote plant growth: A simple hot-water system was installed on the outside wall of the garden, and the gas that is used to heat the water is then exhausted into the garden itself. Every innovation in the growroom was built by licensed electricians and plumbers and designed to be compliant with all building codes.

The plants themselves are nurtured in soilless media, a blend of Happy Frog and Ocean Forest from FoxFarm and Sunshine #4 from Sun Gro. Strolling down the twisty avenue of 60 plants, one can see 15 different strains in various stages of maturation, Cali Mist, Bigfoot, LA Woman, Sweet Tooth and Lemon Sweet Skunk among them. This group of caregivers is proud of the fact that it gives away more medicine than it sells. Furthermore, the highest price for medicine tops out at \$35 per ounce. It's no wonder this outfit believes in the morality of its mission.

"The economy was responsible in part for this explosion of marijuana," says our spokesman. "But now there's another dimension to our work: We're fighting the Drug War, too. We're cutting into the profits of cartels. We're producing medicine that is not polluted by the greed of unscrupulous growers."

These indoor growers choose to stay hidden, but Marisol Therapeutics strives to be upfront with city officials and has welcomed county commissioners and cops who wish to inspect both the Marisol dispensary and its garden. Located in Pueblo about two hours south of Denver, the Marisol storefront is a wellness center and dispensary serving about 150 patients. Michael Stetler is its director, and he oversees the dispensary as well as a gorgeous greenhouse operation a few miles away, set amid acres of ranchland.

"We're trying to do this right," he explains. "I believe we can work together. I opened my doors to them and they've learned quite a bit from me,

'I TRY TO USE AS MUCH OF MOTHER NATURE AS I CAN. THERE'S NO REPLICATION FOR HER.'
—MICHAEL STETLER

just as I've learned a great deal from them. I want to continue to do this on an equal footing with them. We can work through the gray areas."

One of the biggest gray areas is the fact that narcotics officers are still bound by federal law, which defines cannabis as a Schedule I controlled substance. So when cops enter a greenhouse measuring 60 by 140 feet—the size of a gymnasium—suppressing the urge to bust someone must be difficult.

"It's an education for them," says Michael. "But they see I'm providing services for patients. My plants aren't seized, and no one is arrested. I hope we're changing minds."

Stetler is a deeply spiritual man of Mexican and Native American ancestry. Now in his mid-fifties, he uses cannabis to ease the symptoms of thoracic-outlet syndrome and reflex-sympathetic dystrophy syndrome, both of which impact the nerves and blood vessels. He sustained his injuries in a car wreck and was prescribed OxyContin and Demerol. What he remembers about that time is hazy—foggy memories of being incapacitated around family members, unable to immerse himself in the fabric of a life that he once cherished. In 2002, he recognized that his only way back to normalcy was to kick the pills out of his life. With cannabis as his alternative, he's remained drug-free for the past eight years.

"I then realized what I could do," Stetler says. "I'd been growing marijuana for 38 years, and suddenly I saw an opportunity to make life better for people. So I made it a goal for myself: I wanted to have a dispensary and a garden that could provide for the patients."

The Marisol greenhouse is immaculate. Divided down its center, one half houses 300 plants in vegetation; the other side accommodates hundreds more flowering plants. Michael says he's decidedly "old-school ... or at least that's what I've been told," he laughs. "I guess it's because I try to use as much of Mother Nature as I can—there's no replication for her. I water all my plants by hand. I used to mix my own soil, but now I use Sunshine Mix #8 from Green Island, which works well for me. I keep the greenhouse temperature in the mid-70s. There's not a whole lot of magic going on here. I try to keep things simple."

Although Marisol produces approximately 25 different strains, Michael holds a special place in his heart for Nehi Grape. "It's an old hippie-garden strain from 33 years ago—a Northern Lights cross, and I think its partner was Old Christmas Tree." With a smile, he asks: "Does that sound familiar to you?"

Not really. Regardless, Michael created Marisol's signature super strain by crossing Nehi Grape and Hash Plant. He calls it Santa Maria, and it's as pure as the name implies—a heavy *indica* that offers soothing relief for physical pain. He uses it daily himself.

Michael's veneration for the cannabis plant is demonstrated in his gentle treatment of mother plants. "When we clone, we don't like to keep the mothers around like they're machines," he says. "We don't crucify the mother by never letting her have babies; it's what she was meant to do. So we honor that—and once she does reproduce, her life cycle is finished.

"Cannabis is a gift from the Creator," he adds, "pure and simple. We give thanks for that." ✨



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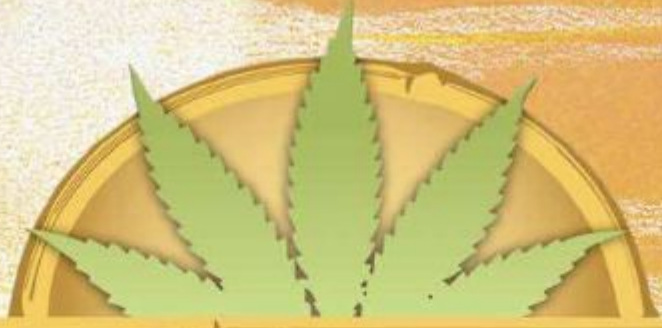
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Fast Facts

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HOW STRAINS ARE MADE

A Simple Look at Complex Breeding. By Nico Escondido

In the Beginning

In the beginning, the universe created *Cannabis sativa* L. Known more simply as “cannabis,” she is a beautiful woman and, like all earthly beings, what she desires most is companionship. Luckily, like most plant varieties, *Cannabis sativa* L. has both female and male counterparts. The female flowers comprise the buds that everyone knows as “marijuana.” They contain high amounts of cannabinoids, and they are what we smoke to get high. A male cannabis plant is generally nonsmokable (dangerously low cannabinoid levels!) and, instead of budding flowers, produces big sacs of pollen.

The rest of the story follows along the lines of that old tale known as “the birds and the bees”—quite literally in some senses. But what most people don’t realize about marijuana genetics is that there are, in fact, quite a few strains, each vastly different from the rest. This is because, unlike most plant varieties, cannabis occurs naturally all over the world. In the very, very beginning, there were only a couple different varieties, each on a different continent on its own side of the planet. These original varieties are known as *landrace strains*.

Nowadays, sure, there are many varieties that are only slightly different and, to the untrained eye, may even appear identical in every respect. (And if you have a shady dealer, maybe they are!) But don’t forget that there are many levels on which marijuana can differ. For instance, you have the look of buds—dark green, light green, purple, brownish, reddish, even white. Then you have the aroma—pungent, mellow, skunky, floral, piney, fruity and so on. Then you have the taste—citrusy, sour, sweet, berry, grapey, raw, spicy ... the list goes on and on. And we haven’t even gotten into potency or the actual high, not to mention a million cultivation-related aspects.

Taxonomy, Genotypes & Phenotypes

This is where story time ends and the serious stuff begins—so back to the landraces: These original strains all fall under the formal taxonomic classification of the genus *Cannabis*. However, under this genus, three putative species have been identified (though we usually encounter only the two smoking varieties).

Within the genus *Cannabis*, there exist the following three species: *Cannabis sativa* L., *Cannabis indica* Lam. and *Cannabis ruderalis* Janisch. (With the latter being the least-known variety, used mainly for its fibers). Although all of the original landrace strains belong to the same genus, they each fall under one of these categories of species as well. The plants in these three categories, or *taxa*, are largely indigenous to Asia, but their early histories indicate that they spread fairly quickly all around the world. The *C. sativa* species is most commonly found in mountainous regions (Asia, South and Central America), while the *C. indica* species is more often found in low-lying areas.

As members of the same genus, these species have very similar yet slightly differing genotypes. A *genotype* is the total combination of genes on the chromosomes and, sometimes, in other parts of the cell. Genes play two pivotal roles in an organism. First, they provide the physical mechanism by which individual traits and characteristics are reproduced and passed from generation to generation; this applies to both seeds and clones. Second, and perhaps most importantly for our purposes here, they regulate the morphological and physiological processes that determine the expression of specific characteristics in the phenotype.

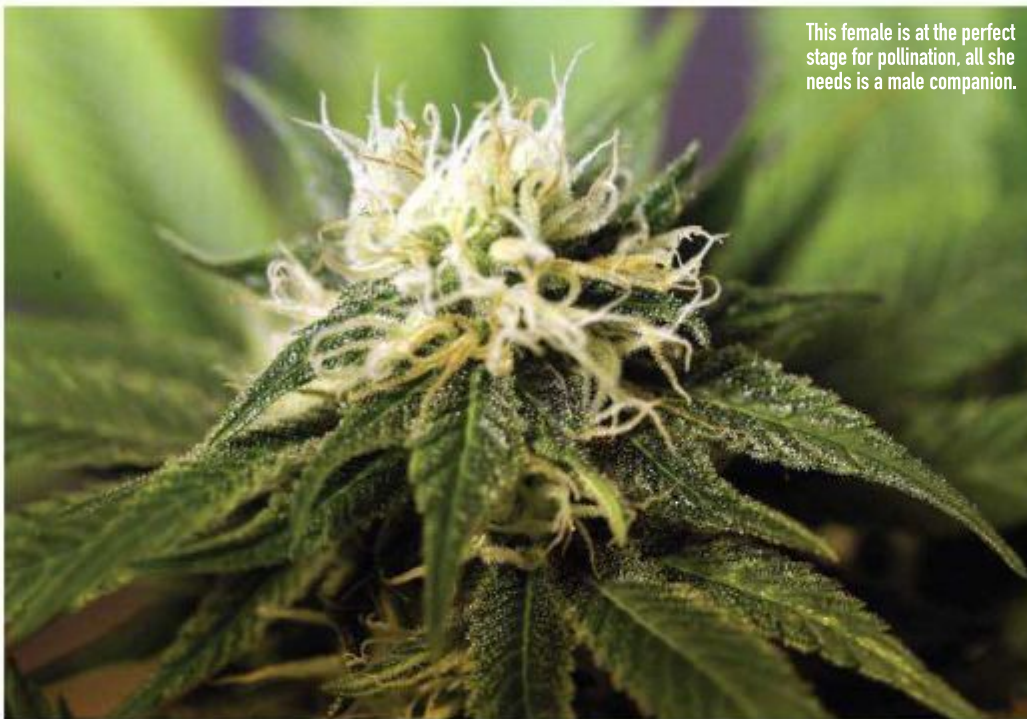
Phenotype refers to the overall appearance, performance and adaptation of the plant cultivar in a given environment. Phenotypes are the traits that cannabis breeders constantly monitor in their attempts to produce better marijuana. Phenotypes are different from genotypes, and the relationship is best described as follows:

Phenotype = genotype + environment.

This tells us that various environmental factors and conditions can induce a specific phenotype’s expression by influencing genes and the role they play. Breeders who are interested in creating new or better strains will search for new phenotypes by visual inspection and comparison to previous generations of the same line. When dealing with seeds or clones of the same lineage, breeders may choose to alter certain environmental conditions (for example, atmospheric conditions like temperature or tweaking the light cycle slightly) in order to find hidden characteristics that may be desirable to smokers or growers, which were previously buried away in the genetic code of that particular strain.

The purple color in this Blackberry bud is a product of both genetics and environment.





This female is at the perfect stage for pollination, all she needs is a male companion.



This hermaphrodite was a female, but with stressful conditions she began producing male pollen sacs within her young buds.

General Propagation

There are two primary methods by which cannabis plants are propagated. The first is via sexual reproduction, where the plants are propagated by seeds and designated as a specific plant line or strain. Seed germination is the most basic method for starting a particular strain. Seeds, however, are not always identical reproductions of a single genotype. As in any sexual reproduction, one male and one female plant combine to form a new hybrid seed. Unless both the male and female are from the exact same lineage, the offspring will have varying traits drawn from both parents. Finding both male and female parents of the same lineage can be difficult and, even if accomplished, it still doesn't guarantee that the offspring will express identical phenotypes.

A second method for plant propagation is an asexual technique in which plants are propagated as clones. *Clonal propagation* is fundamentally different from seed propagation in that clones originate from a single parent plant (in the case of marijuana, it's almost always a female plant, unless a breeder needs loads of pollen from a male). Clonal propagation is fast becoming the most popular choice among growers because it allows them to know exactly what they're getting from the mother plant. Clones are especially effective for larger grows and commercial operations, as they generally propagate faster than growing from seed and eliminate the chore of weeding out unwanted male plants from the garden.

Also, seeds are becoming harder and harder to find—at least for free—as the quality of marijuana increases. This is because the most potent marijuana is seedless, or *sinsemilla* (meaning “without seed”). Still, seeds can be procured in a variety of ways, most of which will cost the grower a little bit of money.

Buying seeds directly from breeders is often the best way to obtain true-breeding, quality seeds. However, buying seeds from reputable seed banks (retailers) or larger distribution companies is another a safe and viable method. Of course, the best way to secure seeds of your favorite strains is to pull them right out of the bag of ganja you just bought from your marijuana supplier. This requires a bit of luck, though, as most quality strains are grown in isolation, without the presence of male plants that can pollinate buds and thus create seeds. Still, even the best ganja will sometimes naturally become hermaphroditic and self-pollinate, producing a few rare seeds. Hermaphroditic plants can often be a grower's best friend.

A major problem in breeding is how to produce seeds without diluting the desired genetic line. Because seeds require pollen in order to form, breeders need to find both a male and female of the same strain that possess the particular phenotypes that the breeder wants. Sometimes, finding a male plant of a particular line can be daunting, as more and more growers turn to clonal propagation, thereby shrinking the male plant population significantly. Some breeders force their plants to become hermaphroditic via the use of chemicals to solve this dilemma. This is also how breeders have come to create the new and trendy *feminized* seeds. However, the plants grown from these seeds often have stability problems and high rates of hermaphroditism themselves.

CANNABIS AND TAXONOMY

Taxonomy is the practice and science of classification. In taxonomy, plant and animal classifications are organized in a descending system of general to more specific groupings, as follows: Life, Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species. All plants fall under the Kingdom classification of *Plantae*. Cannabis starts to differentiate itself under the taxonomic category of Family; it belongs to the Family *Cannabaceae*. Next comes the Genus, *Cannabis*, followed by the three known Species: *C. sativa* L., *C. indica* Lam. and *C. ruderalis* Janisch.

The scientific name of a plant includes the genus and species names (given in Latin), followed by an abbreviation that indicates the authority who first named the species. For example, the “L.” in *Cannabis sativa* L. refers to Carolus Linnaeus, who devised our taxonomic nomenclature system and first classified the *Cannabis* genus in 1753. Likewise, “Lam.” refers to Jean-Baptiste de Lamarck, the noted evolutionary biologist who discovered the *indica* species in 1785, while “Janisch.” denotes the Russian botanist D.E. Janischevsky, who first concluded that *ruderalis* forms a cannabis species of its own.

The final part of a plant's scientific name comprises the cultivar (line or strain) name, which is expressed in a common language. Thus, for example, if you were to call the Blueberry strain by its full name, it would look like this: *Cannabis indica* Lam. Blueberry.

It should be noted that Linnaeus—who was familiar only with the European hemp that was cultivated in his time—named the entire genus *Cannabis sativa* L. because he considered it to be *monotypic* (consisting of a single species). Since then, and in light of what we now know, the genus is simply designated as *Cannabis* L.

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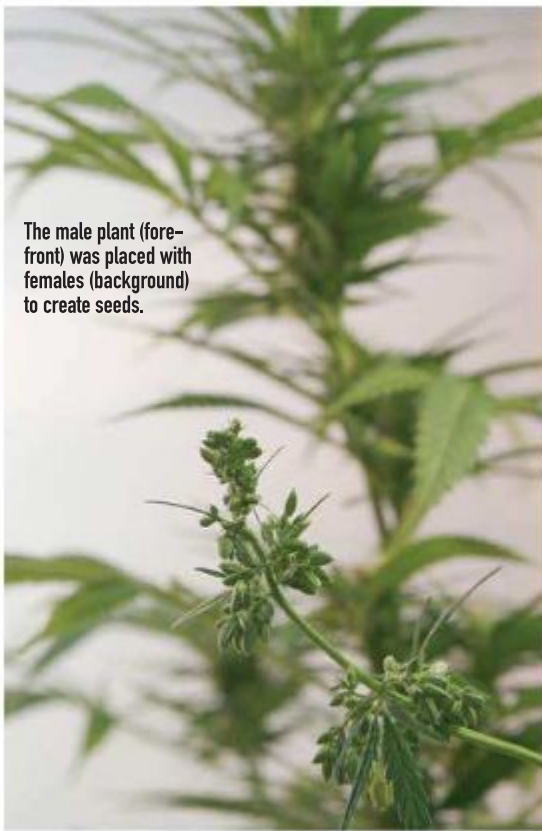
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The male plant (fore-front) was placed with females (background) to create seeds.



Breeders use breeding chambers like these to keep males, females and varying strains isolated until the time is right.

How Genes Work

Genes are the basic units of heredity. They provide the coded instructions within DNA that lead to the expression of hereditary characteristics. Gene pairing creates a pattern of genetics that is unique to each plant. These gene pairs can be likened to a zipper, where each side comprises a specific gene—one inherited from the mother and the other from the father.

Gene pairs are denoted by a pair of letters: CC, Cc, Nn, nn, and so on. Capital letters refer to dominant genes, while lowercase letters refer to recessive genes. Different letters refer to different traits of the plant, and any letter can be assigned to any gene pair when creating a breeding program.

An essential part of understanding how genes are expressed is to understand the relationship between phenotypes and alleles. As we've discussed, a phenotype is a summary of all the recognizable characteristics of a plant (smell, color, height, etc.) brought about by environmental conditions. An *allele* is the specific, alternative form of any one gene or characteristic. This differentiation is important to remember because it can help breeders isolate the specific traits of a phenotype that are desirable for the next generation of offspring in a breeding program.

Essentially, breeders try to figure out the frequency with which the alleles of a particular trait are expressed. A principle of genetics known as the Harvey-Weinberg Model states that dominant alleles will not necessarily always have the highest frequency (or appearance) within a population, nor will the recessive allele always have the lowest frequency. This means that when creating hybrids by crossing two different strains, the dominant traits will not be spread to the entire set of offspring, nor will the recessive traits die out completely.

Knowing this, breeders will map out their breeding program by assigning letter values to every possible allele of a given phenotype. This is why having lots of space for large-scale selection is so important to the breeding process. In order for breeders to ensure they have uncovered every possible allele, they first need to grow out large quantities of each parent and then an even larger number of their offspring. Once this is done and a population of a given gene pool is grown out, breeders can calculate the frequency of occurrence for a given trait by dividing the number of a specific type of allele by the total number of alleles in the gene pool.

Once a breeder selects those traits that he or she wants to breed into a new strain, they can determine by the frequency of those alleles whether or not backcrossing should be done in order to attain, or bring out, those desired alleles. If the frequency of those traits occurs in only a small percentage of plants, the breeder may decide to try backcrossing to a parent that possessed that allele as a dominant trait, thus redefining that allele and possibly making a more dominant trait with a higher frequency of occurrence.

Selection of Phenotypes

The selection process in creating new strains is one of the most important aspects of breeding. *Selection* is the process of finding both a male and female plant from specific genotypes with which to produce seeds. Selecting different genotypes for use in sexual reproduction will result in the creation of a new hybrid strain. Selection of a male and female from the same genotype (line) will result in a new generation of that same genotype—one that may or may not express the same phenotypes of the parents.

Breeders are most often interested in crossing two different genotypes for the purpose of inventing a strain that will have new and desired characteristics, such as a different flavor or aroma or degree of potency. Sometimes breeders choose to use the same genotype for both the mother and father in order to strengthen characteristics that are already popular but not quite stable (meaning that they don't always reappear in the offspring).

In order to have a successful breeding program, breeders require lots of space that will allow them to make selections from hundreds or even thousands of plants. Selection is done by visual inspection of the plants in their mature state. Breeders look for basic characteristics in a population that they found favorable in the parents. These characteristics can include height, color, resistance to mold or insects, or any one of hundreds of other traits. The bigger the selection, the better the chances of finding the exact right parents.

Once parents of the same genotype are chosen, they are crossed either with each other in the hopes of uncovering hidden phenotypes of that same line, or with completely different genotypes from a different or previous selection to create a new hybrid line. When crossed with the same genotype, an *inbred line* (IBL) is created. This can be good, as it creates a homogenous garden for the grower, but it can also lead to reduced size and productivity—a condition known as *inbreeding depression*—if it's continued over multiple generations. In the case



A perfect picture of the female sexual reproductive organs—pistillates—in the early stages of development.

where different genotypes are crossed, the resulting genetic line will possess *hybrid vigor*, whereby the offspring show better size, strength, potency and yield than the parents, not to mention new sets of exciting phenotypes.

When two parents from differing genotypes are crossed, the result is called an *F1 hybrid*. An *F1 hybrid* is the first generation of a new strain. *F1s* usually show excellent growth and vigor, but are sometimes unstable. As such, breeders will produce hundreds of *F1* seeds to grow out and then select for the desired traits. Once the selection is complete, a breeder may choose to recross this new hybrid with one of the parents in order to stabilize or strengthen a particular characteristic. This is known as *backcrossing*. In order to backcross to the original parents, breeders must have an in-depth knowledge of both the strains they're working with and how genes work.

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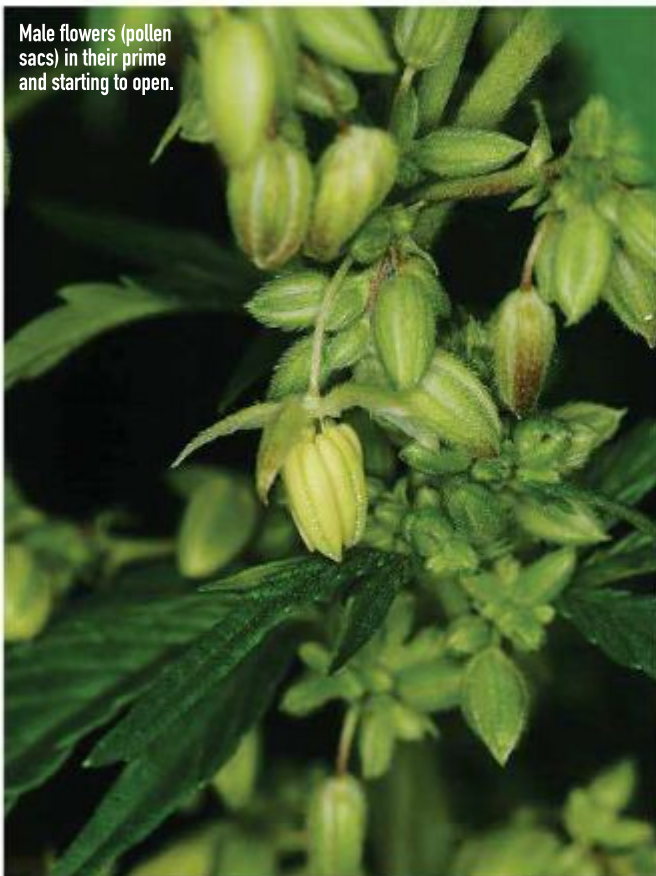
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Male flowers (pollen sacs) in their prime and starting to open.



Collecting pollen to manually apply to female plants flowers is one way to create seeds.

How Seeds Are Made

A seed is a matured ovule that contains a living embryo. Seeds are usually the result of sexual reproduction between two existing lines of cannabis, whereby a male plant pollinates a female plant. Sometimes, however, seeds are produced by a single parent plant that has become hermaphroditic and self-pollinated. (This most commonly occurs in female plants.)

Seeds have three main components; the embryo, storage tissue/food supply, and a protective covering. Female cannabis flowers, which are the buds we smoke, contain ovaries that hold eggs awaiting fertilization. Male cannabis flowers look like tiny bunches of bananas, but are really sacs full of pollen. These pollen sacs are called *calyxes*. In nature, where both male and female plants grow wild, pollination occurs during storms, high winds, and via animals or insects that transport the pollen. Male plants tend to grow taller than their female counterparts, which helps in this natural process. Pollination usually occurs from the middle of the growing season onward, depending on the region and climate.

Breeders, however, take a different approach, especially when growing indoors. Because most breeders have implemented very specific breeding programs in which they are searching for, replicating or trying to draw out certain known alleles, they must be very careful how they pollinate seed crops. Female plants in breeding programs are grown in strict isolation, and male plants are kept housed separately until the female flowers are ready for fertilization. This is known as *selective breeding*. On the other hand, *cross-pollination*, or pollination by multiple



This breeder is collecting full male pollen sacs to store and use later in a hybridization project.

male plants of varying lines, is a breeder's worst nightmare.

Breeders most often want the fertilization of their female plants to occur somewhere between the third and fifth week of flowering. This really depends on the strain being grown and the average finishing time of that strain. Most breeders will try to pollinate no less than four weeks prior to harvest; otherwise, the result may be nonviable seeds. It can take as long as six weeks for some females to produce viable seeds.

Males can drop pollen starting from 12 hours after their initial calyx formation and can continue for up to four weeks after. It's important to know that under a 12/12-hour photoperiod, males will produce their highest amounts of pollen—but males can drop pollen at any time, even under a 24/0 or 18/6 vegetative photoperiod. This is why many breeders try to manually collect pollen from isolated males in places far away from their flowering ladies.

There are two methods for pollinating female flowers. The first and most obvious is simply to move a male plant into an all-female flowering growroom (or tent, which happens to work very

well for breeding projects). This technique will allow an artificially "natural" pollination to take place, with fans and airflow replacing the wind and carrying pollen to all the female plants in the room. Still, this method may not result in even coverage.

The second technique, alluded to above, is to methodically apply pollen to the female flowers manually. To do this, pollen from males must first be collected and stored. This is fairly easy to do and involves simply tapping a calyx and catching the falling pollen in a container that is non-transparent and can be sealed airtight. (But be sure to label your pollen containers carefully!) To manually fertilize females, breeders will use small brushes or cotton swabs, dipping them in pollen containers and then gently applying the pollen directly onto selected buds. This process is very popular because it doesn't require pollinating the whole plant, which means that some select buds can still be kept without seeds.

After pollinating the female plants, it is crucial to maintain the same 12/12-hour light cycle that the flowering females have been on. Disrupting this photoperiod can have adverse effects on seed production—to say nothing of the fact that anytime a grower changes the photoperiod abruptly or in mid-cycle, the stress put on the plant can trigger a hermaphrodite effect, causing the creation of both selfed (i.e., a hermaphroditic parent fertilizing itself) and standard seeds. This will render the breeding project virtually useless, as the two types of seed will be indistinguishable.

One last important point worth mentioning is that, in some instances, pollination mistakes can actually be reversed. Pollen is easily removed by washing down female plants with fresh water, which will render the pollen nonviable. While this may disrupt trichome development, it will also prevent the production of seeds and save unnecessary headaches. ✨



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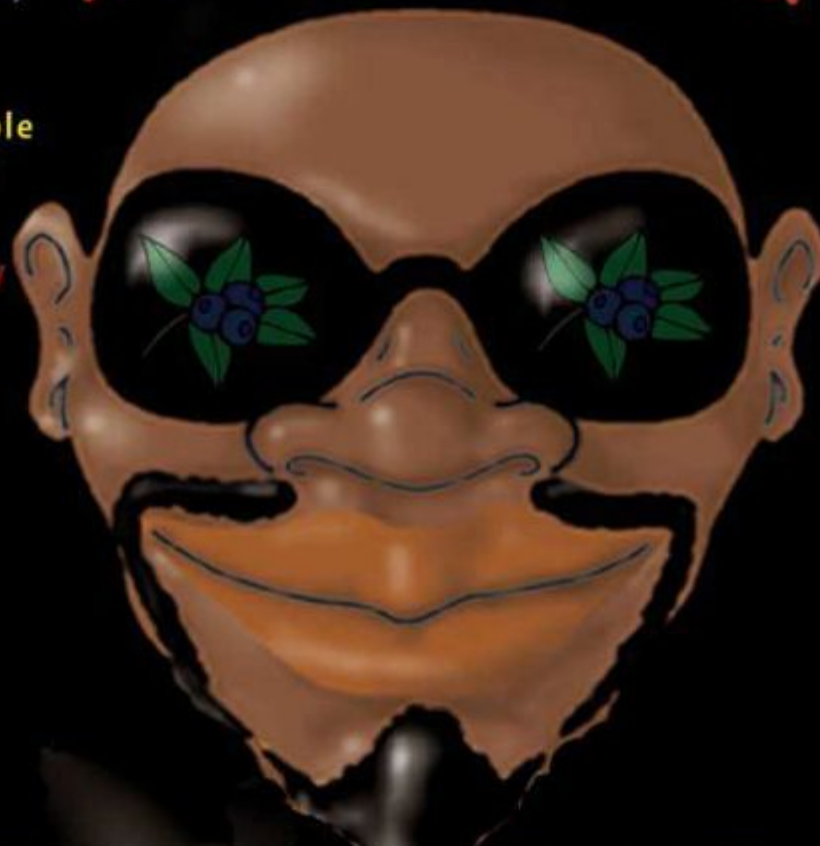
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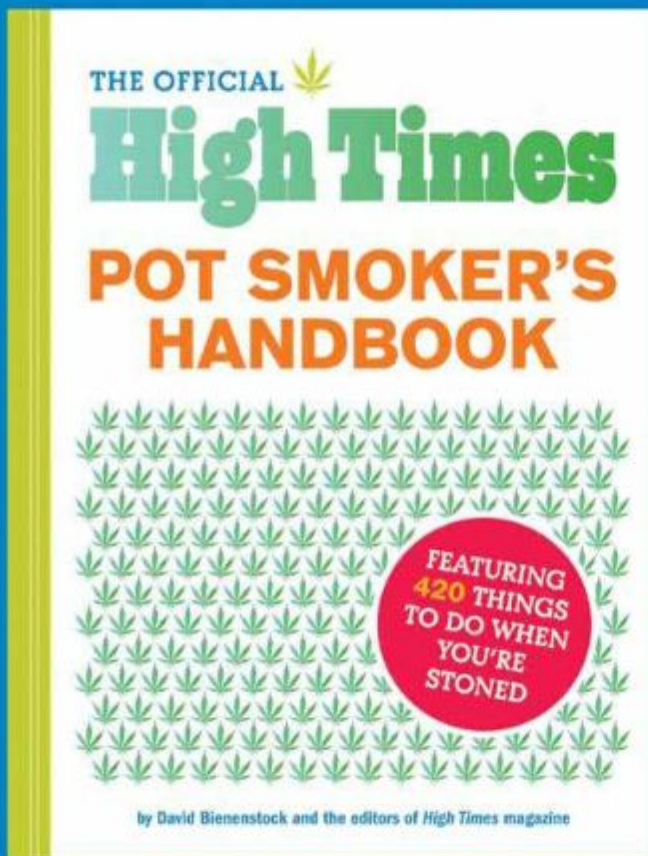
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It is said that Sasquatch has haunted the mountains of the Pacific Northwest since before the first white man set foot in the Americas. HIGH TIMES searches the wilds of the Cascade Mountains in a quest to find the legendary beast. Could this elusive animal possibly exist—or are we just smoking something way too strong?

BY CHRIS SIMUNEK / PHOTOS BY FREEBIE

FOOTSTOOL



INTO THE WILD

When you're out in the wilderness, any small gift is magic. Like right now, I'm waiting for the two Steves to wake up, and all I can think about is coffee. And when I get that coffee, I'm not going to care if it's Jamaican Blue Mountain or Folgers freeze-dried crystals.

Such is the nature of hunger: When want and need grow strong enough, any facsimile of the desired object can be fulfilling. Dogs like their Alpo, but they'll eat the carpet if you forget to feed them. A man might want a woman, but he'll settle for the Internet in a pinch. It's close enough for the moment, and in this modern world, "close enough" is the predominant compromise that enables us to get through the day, the year, the life.

So I'm sitting on top of my sleeping bag in the back of a rented Dodge minivan parked at the snowline at the foot of the Cascade Mountains north of Mount Rainier, dreaming about coffee. I could walk into the camp and start cooking it myself, but I'd wind up tripping a series of motion detectors that would turn on the video monitors inside the '79 Chevy van where the two Steves lie sleeping, and an urgent computer voice would say, "Alert, zone one," and then they would awake in a panic hoping that Sasquatch had finally come calling.

I'm surrounded by formidable mountain peaks covered in snow and pine trees. Next to the car, there's a bubbling river where, a few weeks before, thousands of salmon had swum against the current toward whatever spot it was that instinct told them they should spawn and die. It's early, and an Elysian mist hovers over the water. The ground outside is muddy and littered with empty beer cans, broken glass and thousands of shiny brass bullet casings. This spot has been host to many a hunting party, and though we are hunting and armed to the teeth, we have no desire to kill our prey. Some say that killing a Sasquatch and dragging its carcass in front of cameras and scientists is the only way anyone will prove to the skeptics that it exists. But the two Steves and I, our respect for the beast is too great, and to slay one would be to stain our lives and our legacies indelibly with innocent blood.

On the drive here, I was so convinced I would finally see Bigfoot that I feared he might jump into the road and I'd mow him down like a common buck. Back in New York, I'd already been talking to the Washington Sasquatch Research Team

(wsrt.com) over the phone when Steve Wilkins called one night to tell me they'd had a sighting. The other Steve, Steve Schauer, had seen "The Foot" cutting through the trees, but by the time they got the cameras working, he was gone.

About the two Steves

Steve Wilkins is a 20-year Navy vet. Steve Schauer is an ex-Army Ranger and a veteran of the combat in Grenada and Panama. To avoid confusion, I will from here on in refer to Wilkins, the younger of the two, by his surname.

It's an odd but true fact of life that people who look the same generally have a similar character. Wilkins, tall and thin, in his mid-forties and with a goatee, looks like my friend Paulie, whom I used to work with as a janitor in Long Island City High School back in the late '80s. He's got Paulie's bend-over-backwards-for-ya kind of kindness, and also Paulie's penchant for cracking jokes all day long that suggested you were a homosexual. Schauer, on the other hand, looks like Francis Ford Coppola, and though I've never met the godfather of *The Godfather*, Steve was definitely the director of this expedition. That was cool with me, because it seems like the things I've been in control of during my life—my career, my credit card, my first marriage—they all just end up fucked. I do have one thing going for me, and that's that I am a very lucky man. I don't have the room here to detail all the times in my life that, through no planning or effort on my part, something truly wonderful happened to me. So we're a good crew—Steve S. in charge, Wilkins making sure everything is running while cracking a steady stream of you're-a-fag jokes, and me, the lucky idiot who just might stumble upon the beast the next time I go to take a leak.

So the obvious question is: What am I doing here in the mountains of Washington state, looking for Sasquatch?

At the moment, what I'm doing is freezing my ass off and wondering if maybe a baby hit of bear repellent might jump-start my system and chase away the chill. The sun is out, and so is the moon—a white crescent against the pale blue sky. A bald eagle cuts through the valley. The river bubbles on its way down the mountain. This part of America that is more earth than talk is the only America I will ever pledge allegiance to.

What am I doing here?

I'm waiting for a vision. I can feel it. Sasquatch is here.

THE FOOT FETISH

"In our modern world of concrete and steel, we're far removed from the Indian lore of Bigfoot. It's hard to imagine any corner of our crowded world where a giant, manlike creature could roam free. Yet there's persuasive evidence that Bigfoot is real, and that urban man may be close to his first meeting with this living legend."

—Leonard Nimoy, *In Search of Bigfoot*

It's these words that introduce the 1977 Bigfoot episode of the great documentary series *In Search of ...*, hosted by Leonard Nimoy. To my uncorrupted third-grade mind, this statement was an edict, a declaration of belief from Mr. Spock himself. Around that same time, there was also the famous Bigfoot episode of *The Six Million Dollar Man*, where Steve Austin faced off against the beast in a near-death brawl, only to find that Bigfoot was a bionic android much like himself. You can't be that young and bear witness to the one-two punch of Spock and the Bionic Man tangling with the existential ramifications of an eight-foot-tall mythical man-beast and not carry it with you for the rest of your life. That which you love first, you love always.

A few years back, after my first marriage broke up and it looked like I was going to get fired from my job, I used to search the Internet for Bigfoot stories. Inevitably, I would end up at the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization site, clicking on the audio files of Bigfoot calls recorded in the wild; it would make me laugh, and for a moment I was able to forget my troubles. Squatch was there for me. He wasn't the answer to my problems, but he was close enough.

"Wild man" myths exist in nearly every culture on the globe. Perhaps man, recognizing his own inner beast, needs a greater monster to point at and say, "At least I'm not that crude." Stories of the Yeti, the "abominable snowman" that haunts the mountain peaks of India, China and Nepal, were popular from the turn of the century through the '50s. Some have hypothesized that the Sasquatch is a relative of the Yeti, crossing over the land bridge that once connected Siberia to Alaska and working its way south through Canada to the Pacific Northwest down to California, where it spread to points east.

The Indians of the Washington state region were seeing wild men long before the pale-faced hordes invaded their land. In 1929, a reporter for a Canadian magazine collected stories from Indians of the First Nations in British Columbia about a wild man known in their dialect as *sesquc*, which he simplified to "Sasquatch." These were fearful beasts with supernatural powers that abducted women and children. One woman told the Canadian reporter that she'd been kidnapped by a Sasquatch, and had lived with him and his parents for 12 months. Finally able to get away, she returned home and gave birth to a Sasquatch child that died a few hours later.

In the mid-'50s, a retired logger named Albert Ostman came forward with a story he claimed to have been keeping secret for 30 years. In 1924, while prospecting for gold in British Columbia, he was abducted by a Sasquatch as he slept and car-

ried to a camp. His abductor, it turned out, was the patriarch of a family unit that included an adult female and two children, one male and one female. Ostman described in detail the anatomy of the Sasquatches—the drooping breasts and wide hips of the mother, the small penis of the father. Held for several days, he was only able to escape after the adult male ate the contents of his snuffbox in one gulp and grew violently ill.

In 1958, a cat-skinner named Jerry Crew, in the employ of the Wallace Brothers Logging Company, found an imprint of a gigantic foot on a worksite at Bluff Creek in Humboldt County, CA. Talking with the rest of his crew—including the foreman, Wilbur "Shorty" Wallace, who along with his brother, Ray, oversaw the construction site—Crew found that many of his co-workers had had similar finds. They called the elusive beast "Big Foot." Crew made a plaster cast of the imprint and brought it to a journalist for the *Humboldt Times*, which printed a

**'VEGETARIAN,
MY ASS! BIGFOOT
IS AN APEX
PREDATOR, MAN!
HE'LL TAKE
A DEER, GRAB
HIM BY THE LEGS
AND BASH HIS
HEAD AGAINST
THE ROCKS!'**

photo of Crew holding a ruler next to this 16-inch-long print. Eliminating the space between the two words, the paper dubbed it "Bigfoot," and the modern version of the legend was born.

After Ray Wallace died in a nursing home in 2002 at the age of 84, his son Michael produced a pair of wooden feet that he said his father had used to create the hoax. Was Michael trying to create a hoax of his own? Footers dismiss his claim, pointing to a study at Ohio State University that came to the conclusion that one could not fabricate tracks of the same depth as the Bluff Creek imprints with a simple pair of prosthetic feet.

Friday, October 20, 1967, is perhaps the most important date in the history of Footdom, as that is the day that the Patterson/Gimlin film was made. Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin were both rodeo men from Yakima, WA. Intrigued by the Bigfoot phenomena, Patterson invited his friend Gimlin to travel to the area around Bluff Creek with a camera and see what they could find. Traveling on horseback the morning of October 20, they had the shock of their lives when they spotted a female standing by the creek. The horses went nuts, spooking the creature. Patterson managed to get his camera working and caught 53 seconds of the thing shooting a cryptic over-the-shoulder glance at the intruders while walking away. Patterson died of cancer in 1972, claiming on his deathbed that he had seen a true

Sasquatch in the woods that day five years earlier. Gimlin refused to give an interview for 30 years, but when an acquaintance of his named Bob Hieronomous claimed to be the man in the ape suit, he emerged to call Hieronomous a liar (as did Patterson's widow) and attest to the veracity of the film.

In 2008, Bigfoot was in the news again when two idiots from Georgia stuffed an ape suit with animal guts, froze it in ice, and got coverage from media outlets as far and wide as ABC, CNN, Fox News and the BBC before the hoax was revealed.

Who is lying, and who is telling the truth—and is there any way to know? Too many times, I've seen men who were sworn to tell the truth lie like Corey Haim at an NA meeting. I watched Colin Powell stand in front of the United Nations and testify that Saddam Hussein had an active nuclear-weapons program. I watched Bill Clinton wag his finger in the face of America and insist that he was not a chubby-chaser. In 1982, I saw the Who at Shea Stadium on their "Farewell Tour." Was I hallucinating, or did they just play the Super Bowl?

Ostman, Patterson, Clinton, Townsend ... I've come to the conclusion that the truth is just one man's word shouted louder than the rest.

VALLEY OF THE BEAST

The first thing Steve did after we arrived at our base camp was open up a dozen cans of cat food and several packages of bacon and spread them around the perimeter. I asked him if that was really such a great idea, considering this was bear country and black bears especially are known to attack campers. He told me not to worry, that Bigfoot was king here and that Bigfoots and bears don't share the same turf.

Steve was pretty fearless. As an Army Ranger, he did some special ops in Panama and Grenada in the '80s and caught a few bullets for his efforts. In the summer, Steve sleeps out on the ground, beneath the stars, surrounded by his Bigfoot bait. When I asked him why, he said: "I want to look one of these creatures dead in the eyes. Like they say, it's the window to your soul. It will tell me, 'Are you an animal or more human? Do you have feelings? Do you have the love and the hate and everything else going on in there and you just want to stay away from people, basically?' So to have that close look, just to look in their eyes—it's one of those things that I want."

I made the mistake of mentioning that some people thought Bigfoot was a vegetarian, and Steve grew annoyed at my ignorance.

"Vegetarian, my ass! Bigfoot is an apex predator, man! He'll take a deer, grab him by the legs and bash his head against the rocks!"

Steve has set eyes upon the beast before. In addition to the indistinct sighting from a few weeks earlier, Steve had a brief, full-on encounter with a Sasquatch back in 1985. He'd been intrigued by the thing since he was a kid and the 1972 classic *Legend of Boggy Creek* scared the heck out of him. When he got back from Panama, he started actively hunting The Foot, driving his truck around the mountains at night, sleeping on the side of the road, and then driving around some more.



Bigfoot gets big yields.

"I was in these woods with a group of friends and a girlfriend of mine," he recalled. "My girlfriend was in my vehicle when we left. I was headed down in the valley; it was dark out. I hit my high beams and just lit up the whole area in front of me. Seconds after that, it stepped out into the middle of the road. In two steps, it crossed a two-lane highway without effort, just swinging, and it looked at me. And its face was that of what you would see in old, old photographs of Indians—*real* old Indians; they have flatter noses. It was about eight to nine foot tall, it was a male—no breasts—it had hair on its arms, on its legs, and it crossed without effort ... *zero* effort. Man would've had to take five, six steps to get across the road; it did it in *two*."

Over the years, Steve found himself alone on his hunts more often than not. A couple years back, he started surfing the Bigfoot chat sites and found Wilkins.

When I asked Wilkins why he hunted The Foot, I got the impression that he was out to prove a whole lot of people wrong about something.

"I hear these people with the Ph.D.s after their name on these Bigfoot shows with the opinion that it doesn't exist, and it's almost like they don't *want* it to exist. It doesn't fit into their little mold of evolution; it will send Darwin's theory of evolution into a tailspin. I just think it evolved separate from man, like maybe Bigfoot is a branch from the Cro-Magnon Man family tree that still exists in the wilderness. But you could have a Bigfoot sitting on the Oprah Winfrey show being interviewed, and there's still gonna be people in the audience saying, 'That's a man in a monkey suit.'"

Wilkins was a radioman in the Navy for 20 years, where he worked on destroyers setting up ship-to-shore data and voice communications. A family man now with a wife and a young son, he sets up the technical stuff in the camp.

Everything in the camp was being run on batteries: Wilkins had two 12-volt deep-cell RV batteries, and Steve had some gigantic thing that used to be part of a tugboat. With them, they ran all the lights, DVD recorders, monitors and laptops. Starting with the idea that Bigfoot is naturally curious when it comes to man, the Washington Sasquatch Research Team had four cameras connected to passive-infrared motion detectors (because standard infrared, the Steves feared, was visible in the dark to Bigfoots), all hardwired to the batteries and aimed toward the camp from about 30 feet away. Once the motion detectors were tripped, a signal would be sent to the walkie-talkies that would indicate the zone that the intruder had entered. At that point, everything would turn on—the floodlights, the cameras, the monitors—and then it would be: *Smile, Sasquatch, you're on Candid Camera.*

The two Steves believe that the Bigfoot who hangs out in this neck of the woods is an adolescent, more curious than an adult, which is why they were able to get that fleeting glimpse of him a month before. They call him "Stinky" because of the malodorous funk he emits when he's in proximity. One universally accepted fact among Footers is that Sasquatch smells like a gangrenous dog that ate a bunch of rotten fish

and then rolled around in its own vomit.

That first night, it started to sleet, and we were all huddled beneath a tarp, eating hot dogs and watching TV shows and movies that Steve had downloaded from the Internet: *12 O'Clock High* and, of course, *The Legend of Boggy Creek*.

Afterwards, I retired to the back of my rented van, where I could fire up the engine, roll up the windows, crank the heat and hope there wasn't enough carbon monoxide in the air to kill me in my sleep.

Alone in the dark, I wondered if Sasquatch was watching like the two Steves thought he might be. I was well aware of the fact that most people think that anyone who believes in Bigfoot is retarded—but what is belief, anyway, but the bastard son of hope and desire? I believe in ghosts. I believe that man is not as smart as he thinks he is. So Sasquatch, for me, wasn't much of a stretch. Maybe I'm paranoid, but I've reached the point where I believe that what we see out of the corners of our eyes is more real than that which confronts us face to face.



Perhaps there is a reason Bigfoot has proven to be so elusive. Could it be he has a secret to hide?

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE WITH THE STINK OF SASQUATCH

I drank my coffee finally and the sun is out, but I'm feeling a little restless, so I start in on the beer. The Steves sense my boredom and suggest that I pop off a few rounds. We're well armed with two pistols—a Springfield .45 and a Ruger .357 magnum—and also a M483 Bushmaster rifle, the same one that the DC Sniper used for his reign of terror back in 2002. I fire them all until the tree stump I'm aiming at is as dead as it pretends to be, then we break for lunch.

Wilkins burns us a few grilled cheeses that aren't really up to either my or Steve's culinary standards, and we tell him so. Wilkins has a whole lot of dietary restrictions—he won't eat beans, he hates mushrooms, and the very thought of mayonnaise makes him wince. As far as I can tell, his favorite food is Red Bull, which he drinks all day and late into the night.

I ask Steve what the Washington Sasquatch Research Team hopes to accomplish in these cold woods.

"We're in a race against people who want to kill Sasquatches for fame, greed, money, fortune," he says. "I'm not some kind of tree-hugger, but I believe these things have to be protected. Before you know it, this species, this apex predator, is gone. You don't do that to the boss of the woods, and he *is* the boss of the woods—a regal creature that is probably closer to man than any other creature that is walking the earth."

"When you say that, I think of King Kong," I tell him. "They take the beast out of the jungle, shine the lights on him, and then all hell breaks loose."

"All hell breaks loose—and then they have to kill him," Steve agrees. "We brought him out of his environment, and now he's free and we can't deal with it. It's the same thing when you hear about a rogue elephant breaking loose and killing its trainer. Why didn't you just leave it in the forest or the jungle where it belongs? It doesn't belong balancing on a fucking ball, or a bear riding a fucking bike—what the hell is that shit?"

So we're choking down our food when a vicious stink wafts through the camp, like a German shepherd just went nuts at an all-you-can-eat ass buffet and then burped in our faces.

"He's here!" Steve shouts, and we're all out of our seats, scrambling for the cameras.

The woods are littered with a hundred years' worth of logging debris—bits of heavy metal cable, corroded machine parts and 50-gallon oil drums rusted to the point of disintegration. I climb over felled trees covered with emerald moss, past regal stumps five feet in diameter cut flat across the top two feet off the ground. There are empty beer cans and Dorito bags where someone (Squatch?) got their party on.

We huddle together, whispering, trying to divine the direction that the stench is coming from.

"Something's going on in these woods here," Steve says. "I keep hearing movement, but I can't see anything. They're probably over there saying, 'You smell that? It smells like man.'"

"One of them smells like he's from New York," I say.

"One of them smells Irish," Steve says.

"They all smell gay," Wilkins laughs.

We decide to pan out in the hopes of flushing Sasquatch out of the brush. Steve circles around to the east, Wilkins cuts straight through the center, and I follow the bank of the river to the west.

"If he comes at you, Chris, don't be afraid," Steve instructs. "Just fall down to the ground in a fetal position."

"Sure thing."

On the bank overlooking the river, I encounter something oddly out of place. There are several half-eaten salmon carcasses too far from the river to have been deposited there by the high tide of the recent spawning season. Their hollow eyes stare up at me as if they have a story to tell. Something with hands had carried them to higher ground.

I run into Wilkins, and he agrees with my assessment.

"It's one of those things," he says. "Inconclusive, but interesting."

After about half an hour, the smell disappears

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When tending to his garden, Bigfoot likes to crank the Ozzy.

and we head back to the camp. As we walk, Steve's a little apologetic that this is probably as close to Sasquatch as I'm likely to get on this outing.

"I've always said, 'You don't go looking for Sasquatch; Sasquatch will come looking for you.' That's the way it is, and if you mix that in with a whole lot of luck and you're ready, you're going to get that sighting. You're going to get what you want."

GODS AND MONSTERS

If we assume that Bigfoot is real and that men are closing in on this seemingly gentle monster, then we must prepare for that first meeting. To have eluded us for so long, Bigfoot must understand men very well. The burden will be on us to understand it. Bigfoot may well be waiting for some sign that we are ready.

—Leonard Nimoy, *In Search of Bigfoot*

Zeus turned himself into a bull and raped the virgin Europa while she was gathering flowers by a lake. Moses was kicking it with a herd of sheep when he saw the burning bush. The angel Moroni came to Joseph Smith in the upstate town of Palmyra, NY, and told him where to find a lost book of the Bible that described Jesus' travels through America. In February of 1974, Philip K. Dick, author of 44 science-fiction novels, answered the front door of his Los Angeles apartment, expecting to receive a delivery of the narcotic Darvon to help alleviate the pain from a recent wisdom-tooth removal. The woman who brought the package was wearing an amulet of a fish, the Christian symbol that you sometimes see on bumper stickers. The sight of her set off

two months of visions that came to Dick mostly in the form of a pink laser beam boring into his brain.

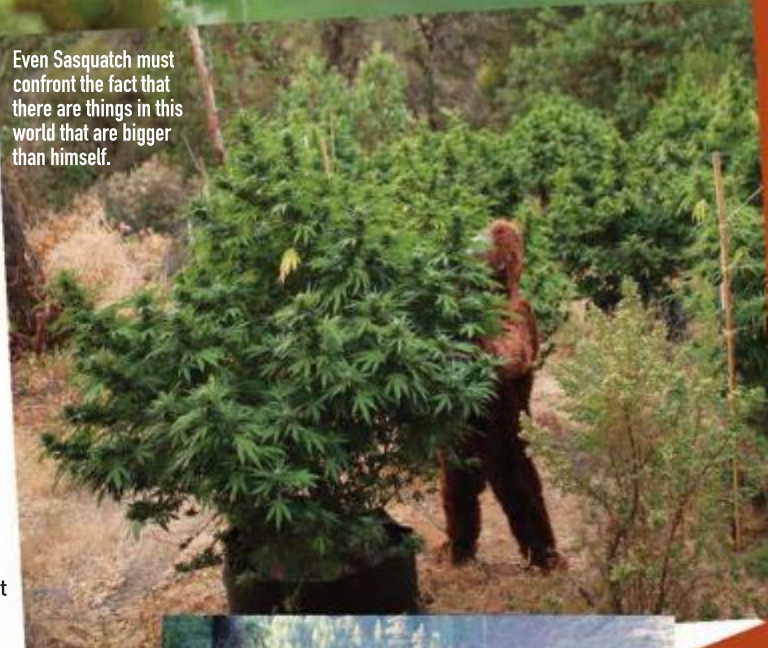
All of these visitations irrevocably altered the lives of those who received them. Often cruel and always unexpected, the impossible, when it comes calling on a person, is a burdensome gift.

Steve Schauer saw Bigfoot cross the road in front of his truck on a dark night in 1985, and of that I am a little bit jealous. I do not know what he was like before this happened, but I know that today Steve is a good man. When you meet a person who believes in something, and that something is not evil, not venal, not corruptive, but a thing of joy, you can't help but notice the way they shine.

We all had our reasons for being here—I wanted a vision, Wilkins wanted to prove a bunch of pencil-neck scientists wrong, and Steve wanted to spare something that he thought was beautiful from extinction. But there was something deeper as well, a drive that I believe has to do with the fact that we were all born into a fully mapped world, a place where mystery exists in dwindling supply. Man is drawn to the unexplained. Anyone who has ever contemplated the nature of God, any guy who has ever had a crazy girlfriend will tell you: That which confounds begs to be adored.

As I pack my gear into my rented Dodge van and hug the two Steves good-bye, yes, I'm a little disappointed that I only got a whiff of Sasquatch, and that he did not choose to reveal himself to me

Even Sasquatch must confront the fact that there are things in this world that are bigger than himself.



Steve Schauer and Steve Wilkins, ready for anything.

fully on this particular outing. Maybe, as Mr. Spock suggests, I'm not ready for it. Anyway, I still have my whole life ahead of me, a dozen years at least. On my drive back to Sea-Tac, out my Jet Blue window as I fly across the country, during my cab ride on the Van Wyck Expressway en route to my bed, I will still be looking for Bigfoot—out of the corners of my eyes, naturally, because that's where he lives. ✨

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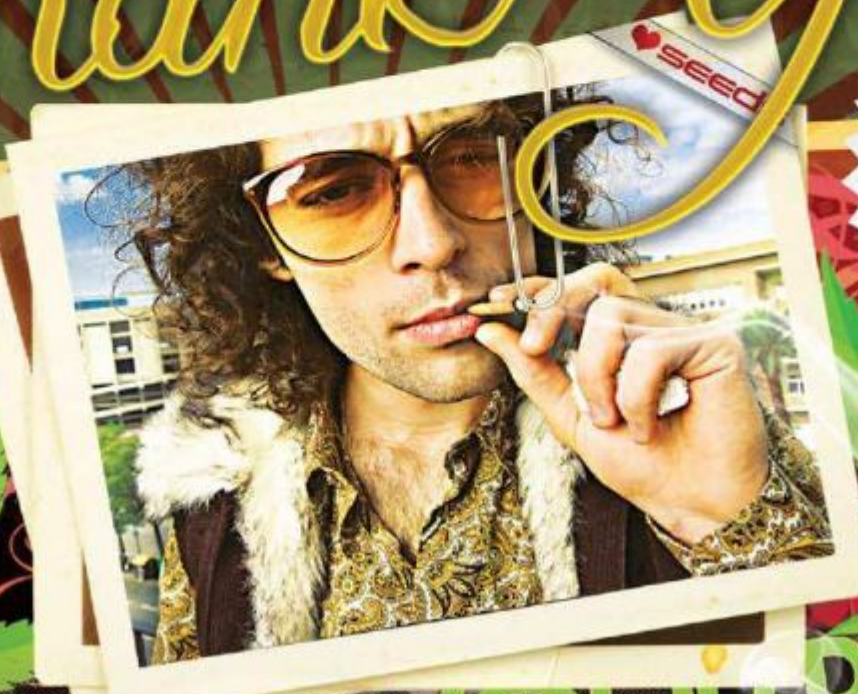
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GIANTS

OF THE GREAT WHITE NORTH

Take a behind-the-scenes look at a huge, federally authorized cannabis-cultivation facility that uses "hybrid hydro" techniques to grow massive amounts of medical marijuana for the pot patients of Canada.

Story & photos by Erik Biksa

CROW CANADA!

North of the US border, it's possible to operate a medical-marijuana growing facility and exist as a legitimate care provider under federal law. Following guidelines established by the Canadian government, these facilities are able to produce medical cannabis at a level that provides unique opportunities for experiments into improving growth rates as well as the quality and yield of the finished product.

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CannaPharm's Chris Davis oversees the production of medicine.

CANNAPHARM

The CannaPharm Compassion Society (cannapharm.ca) is a nonprofit corporation that facilitates the cultivation of medical-grade marijuana for patients. I had the opportunity to inspect one of their operations recently and check out the cultivation methods and practices.

The facility featured in this article is situated in a quiet, semi-rural area where there is lots of space between neighbors. Within close proximity lies the thriving and lush green metropolis of Vancouver, BC. Upon getting out of your vehicle and approaching the building, you begin to notice that you are under the watchful eye of a security and video-surveillance system. But there are no pit bulls, electrified fences or anything of that sort here—just a nondescript private home with a large outbuilding and a perimeter surrounded by a chain-link fence.

Once you walk through the door of that outbuilding, you find yourself in an open foyer. Walk around the corner and through another regular door, and you're standing in an impressive medical-marijuana grow op that runs multiple 1,000-watt high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps in three different grow-rooms. This facility also includes one very impressive-looking electrical

room, as well as a centrally located reservoir-mixing area and material-handling space.

The entire interior of this seemingly normal building has been completely renovated into a custom-built medical-marijuana grow house. Besides being impressive in sheer scale, the facility offers the ability to gain higher levels of knowledge in cultivating superior quality cannabis. While operating discreetly for security purposes, the facility nevertheless can exist in the open thanks to Canada's medical-marijuana laws.

IT'S ELECTRIC

The electrical room houses significant numbers of 1,000-watt metal halide (MH) and high-pressure sodium (HPS) ballasts drawing over 400 total amps of power! For safety, and to ensure trouble-free cropping cycles, the ballasts and other components have all been installed and certified by an authorized commercial electrician to meet or exceed local building and electrical codes.

To reduce the number of ballasts required while maximizing the number of lamps (and therefore yields), high-amperage lighting relays (a.k.a. flip-flops) have also been installed in the main electrical room. The lighting load from each ballast is transferred via the relays to two separate lighting systems on a timer. Basically, every ballast runs two lamps—just never at the same time.

VEGETATIVE GROWING FOR HUGE PLANTS

The room for vegetative growth is relatively large in proportion to the two independent flowering rooms used here. Usually, a smaller space is required for vegetative growth; however, this facility grows some *seriously* big plants. One of the restrictions placed on medical-marijuana growers in Canada is the number of plants that may be cultivated. To maximize production and keep costs down, fewer plants are grown relative to the size of this facility—but these plants can finish at approximately 6 feet tall, with large, dense and heavy buds covering the well-branched plants from top to bottom.

From the early growing stages all the way through harvest, the plants are broadsided with vertically oriented 1,000-watt HID lighting. No

reflectors are used on the vertical bulbs; instead, the lamps are suspended about one-third of the way down from the tops of the plants. This provides a wide area of intense side lighting, promoting very large and bushy plants. MH lamps are used throughout the vegetative-growth stage, as their higher portions of blue spectrum help to keep these Chemdog #3 (Canadian OG Kush) plants growing nice and tight, with big, healthy leaves and dense branching patterns. These plants will spend a significant amount of time in the vegetative stage before they gain enough stature to enter the bloom or "bud" phase of growth.

Chemdog provides some of the best medical marijuana around—it's extremely potent, with some very complex characteristics in terms of taste, smell and psychoactivity. However, it grows rather slowly and doesn't produce many new budding sites after the initiation of the flowering stage with a 12/12-hour photoperiod. As a result, the plants here are grown in the vegetative stage for over two months under 18 hours of HID light before they are placed into flowering. By the end of the vegetative-growth phase, the plants are about 5 feet tall and 4 feet in diameter, making the inside of this facility look a lot like an indoor Christmas-tree farm.

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Oscillating fans above the canopy provide plenty of air circulation.

A LIVING MIX

Research has shown that the growth rate of Chemdog in both the vegetative and budding phases can be accelerated by hydroponic growing methods. However, when it comes to medical marijuana, a high turnover rate for the crops is far less important than their quality. Through informal testing, it was found that patients preferred the medicinal effects of cannabis plants grown in soilless mix over purely hydroponically grown plants, so all of the cannabis harvested here is grown in an airy, commercial-peat-based growing mix. However, this medium only holds the roots in place while providing little to no nutritional value (similar to rockwool in a true hydroponic system, but without the concerns over the use of heat-spun rock with its fiberglass-like particles).

The peat mix provides the ideal environment for beneficial microorganisms to thrive, maintained through regular applications of microbial inoculants such as Voodoo Juice, Piranha and Tarantula.

These inoculants contain highly specialized species of fungi like trichoderma and mycorrhizae, as well as bacteria like bacillus and pseudomonas, that colonize the plants' root system and growth medium.

Beneficial plant inoculations promote very large and healthy root masses that can take in higher levels of water and nutrients to produce massive yields of potent medicine. The plants are also better able to resist pests and diseases naturally, both at the leaves and the roots, after being treated. The inoculations take place periodically throughout the vegetative-growth phase and during the first two to three weeks of flowering.



Large containers ensure huge root systems and bigger harvests.

MORE ROOT, MORE FRUIT

Because the plants will finish very large, an extensive root system is desirable both to anchor and feed them. The beneficial microbial products and other specialty nutrients help to encourage roots, but the massive 55-gallon drums used to pot the plants (each drum sawn in half and used for two separate plants) give their root systems plenty of space to develop. This means that each plant has over 20 gallons of high-quality, commercial-peat-based growing mix to anchor and help feed its roots with specialty nutrient solution. A drainage layer is placed at the bottom of each pot, consisting either of perlite or grow rocks. It's been shown that deeper and larger volumes of growth medium promote significantly larger yields, and these yields are encouraged even further with the addition of the beneficial plant inoculants.

In fact, these plants get so big and healthy that they require lots of additional support to hold up the weight of their branches and buds. To this end, an ingenious trellis system has been developed and implemented here. A length of 1/2-inch PVC pipe is inserted into each pot, like a traditional garden stake, to a height of about 6 feet from the top of the

container. On top of the 1/2-inch PVC pipe is a modified PVC cross fitting. Four lengths of 1/2-inch PVC pipe (about 2.5 feet each) are inserted into the cross fitting, which then has a wood screw drilled through its center to securely attach a length of 1/2-inch-diameter wood dowelling. The dowel is then slid into the top of the 1/2-inch PVC upright, securing a 5-foot-diameter cross to the top. Webbing is created by running common garden wire through the perimeter of the horizontal cross, which then runs down vertically and is secured into holes drilled into the upper lip of the container. You can see this trellis system in the photos accompanying this article.

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Circular trellises similar to tomato cages keep branches from dropping, and maximize light to the plant tops.

HYBRID HYDRO

The plants are fed a complete nutrient program developed specifically for medicinal cannabis. Formulations such as Nirvana, SensiZym and Kushie Kush, and base nutrients like Connoisseur or Iguana Juice, have been shown to produce significant increases in the quality, potency and yields of the cannabis grown at a number of CannaPharm's facilities.

All of the plants are watered from central reservoirs where the nutrients are mixed. The nutrient solution is top-fed to the individual pots via hoses and watering wands. This allows skilled crop workers to adjust how much each plant gets and when. It's a lot like a typical hydro drip-feed, but smarter and better suited to meet the individual needs of these massive plants.

Even though there's a significant mass of growing medium in each pot, care is taken to ensure that nutrient residues do not accumulate to levels that are harmful to plant health throughout the relatively long cropping cycle. (Remember that these plants are vegged for over two months and will spend another seven to 10 weeks completing the bloom cycle.) Following a hydroponic-style "feed/feed/water" regimen helps to keep nutrient residues from building up, as do applications of digestive enzymes in the nutrient solution. The plants are also flushed with plain water and more digestive enzymes (SensiZym specifically) for approximately the last two weeks before harvest.



A security monitor sits above a nutrient reservoir.



Constant pH monitoring ensures success.

INCREASING POT POTENCY

A higher level of potency can be coaxed from the plants by leaving them in uninterrupted darkness for 24 to 48 hours before harvest. Well-documented scientific research has shown that cannabinoid production is highest during the dark hours of the photoperiod, so these hours are prolonged as harvest time approaches.

Each of the plants grown here easily yields what hobby growers may get from a typical 4' x 4' space— but remember that this is being achieved by just *one* large, healthy plant as opposed to a dozen or so in the same area. Granted, the cropping time is longer, but the overall yield and quality are certainly worth the wait. Besides, with multiple flowering



Expend air is exhausted through light-tight vents that can be shut when needed.

rooms and a dedicated veg room, plants that are ready to be flowered can be placed into the budding rooms after each harvest. There is only enough down time between crops to trim and process the plants and clean out the room for the next batch.

BLUE DREAM



BLACKBERRY
KUSH
HIGH TIMES





CHEMDOG



12 Plant PhD's Discover

The Japanese Engineering
Breakthrough That's Allowing Growers

To Multiply Their Yields

From Their Plants Within
The Same Bloom Time



We all want our plants to get into peak bloom phase faster and to yield a bigger harvest. Now, a team of 12 plant PhD's and their research assistants believe they have found the answer ...

"The secret," says Dr. Savov, "Is we implement the Japanese engineering principle of continuous improvement – called kaizen – into developing a better 2-part premium bloom base fertilizer. The principle of kaizen states that small, continual improvements at each step of a multi-part process equals a much larger, compounded total increase in performance in the final product."

Compound Improvement ... The Most Powerful, Plant Growing Force In The Universe?

Much like Albert Einstein called compound interest, "the most powerful force in the universe"—these small, continuous improvements at each phase of a multi-part process yield a very powerful, impressive end result.

So, when it comes to a premium bloom base fertilizer — a team of 12 PhD's working for Advanced Nutrients in a leading Bulgarian research lab simply found multiple ways to improve upon each stage of the two-part process of growing plants.

In the end, it worked exceptionally well to achieve a bigger, compounded, yield — in at least one documented head-to-head, consumer trial — over 40% bigger!

How This Scientific Breakthrough Gets Your Plants Into Bloom Faster and Multiplies Their Yield Without Increasing Your Bloom Time

First, the scientists wanted to improve upon the actual ingredients used in their 2-part formula. The idea was to give you better "Building Blocks" for your plants to use to get bigger yields, more colorful flowers, a stronger aroma and maximum potency. This was the first stage the team improved upon.

Next, they wanted to enhance your plant's abilities to get the maximum absorption of these nutrients because having the highest quality ingredients without ensuring your plants can fully absorb them is worthless. The scientists discovered that most growers aren't seeing bigger yields with other fertilizers because their plants aren't able to effectively absorb the nutrients being used.

Obviously, improving the absorption abilities of your plant greatly compounds the effectiveness of the high quality ingredients being used! Lastly, in an effort to maximize every part of your plant's deepest core levels of plant bloom metabolism and floral production, the scientists developed a proprietary blend of floral growth co-factors to activate and control these core issues.

These co-factors include amino acids and amino acid precursors essential to protein formation which promote cellular metabolism, replication and other bloom processes. In addition, other proprietary co-factors create enhanced changes in how plants carry out bloom

phase functions.

Let's examine how the scientists improved these phases in developing the ultra-premium, 2-part bloom base nutrient for Grand Master Growers – Connoisseur!

Instead of using low-quality, questionable ingredients—the team at Advanced Nutrients invested heavily in putting to use only the most potent, most effective, most proven ingredients possible (ingredients no other company uses because of the high cost to both source and manufacture these ingredients into bloom fertilizers!)

How To Ensure Your Plant Gets The Maximum Uptake Of Nutrients ...

To start with, every single one of the micro-nutrients used in Connoisseur is chelated so you get maximum absorption and uptake of these amino chelates into your plants. With a theoretical absorption range of pH 1-10, this in effect means you get the highest absorption rate possible of these life-giving micronutrients for as long as your plant is alive!

What's more, Advanced Nutrients, has also invested heavily into chelating a high percentage of the macro-nutrients used in Connoisseur to get your plants to bloom faster and keep them in that bloom phase longer!

How Growers Of High Profit Plants Are Making More Money With This One, Simple Scientific Breakthrough ...

If you count on your plants to make you money, you're going to love Connoisseur!

Here's why commercial growers of rare and profit-producing plants love this comprehensive hydroponics fertilizer formula ...

- You get a faster time to peak bloom time ... meaning you get to sell your plants faster!
- You get more flowers and more weight per flower ... which means more money per plant!
- You get more aroma, more taste, and more color in your plants ... which means you get more satisfied and repeat customers!
- The bottom line? You get more profits per each crop cycle!





GROWING GIANTS

Chris Davis, the director of the CannaPharm Compassion Society, found some free time in his busy schedule to answer a few of our questions.

Chris, what inspired you to go against the grain, so to speak, and begin to help patients receive medical marijuana for the treatment of their conditions?

About four years ago, a close family friend's parent was suffering greatly from spinal-cord disease, and I was able to witness firsthand the difference in the quality of her life and the ease in her suffering that medical marijuana provided. From there, I knew I had a purpose, which now manifests through the CannaPharm Compassion Society.

What would you describe as some of the differences between the medical marijuana that you help to facilitate for patients versus the marijuana that might be obtained on the black market?

Firstly, we ensure that all of our



These medicinal cannabis plants are a tall order.

facilities operate under a strict set of high standards that we have developed. This ensures that all medical marijuana produced is free of contaminants, such as harmful molds or mildews; doesn't contain dangerous pesticides or other chemicals; and has been well flushed prior to harvest to avoid any fertilizer residues from occurring in the finished product. These measures and oth-

ers help us to provide clean, safe and effective high-grade medicine.

When patients are forced into obtaining their medicine in the black market, they become vulnerable to the threat of prosecution, criminal rip-offs or violence—and there is also the possibility that their medicine will contain contaminants due to unscrupulous or uninformed cultivation methods.

Furthermore, they may not receive the consistency in potency that our clients have come to expect.

Based on your experiences cultivating medical marijuana, what are three things that you have found to have a significant impact on either the quality of the medicine or the yield?

Attention to detail—with any growing operation, be prepared to make a significant investment of time and patience in developing and maintaining a cropping program for your particular strains. This includes watering routines, pruning and training, the right planting densities, and just too many details to speak of here.

We have found that having the right fertilizer program is essential to not only the yield, but the levels and ratios of THC, CBD and CBN [the active ingredients in cannabis]. Knowing when to apply the right type of nutrient ratios, vitamins or co-factors at the right time can really make some huge differences. We exclusively use nutrients, additives and beneficial inoculants specifically formulated for medical marijuana.

As you know, we like to do a lot of R&D at CannaPharm. If you're serious about growing, you have to experiment. The yields and quality we achieve didn't come overnight—it took several years of cropping trials to determine which strains and methods of growing them out gave our clients the type of medicine that was most effective for a variety of conditions. Truthfully, we could be growing higher-yielding strains, but they are just not as effective for our patients' needs.

Check out more from Erik Biksa at hydroponicsecrets.tv.



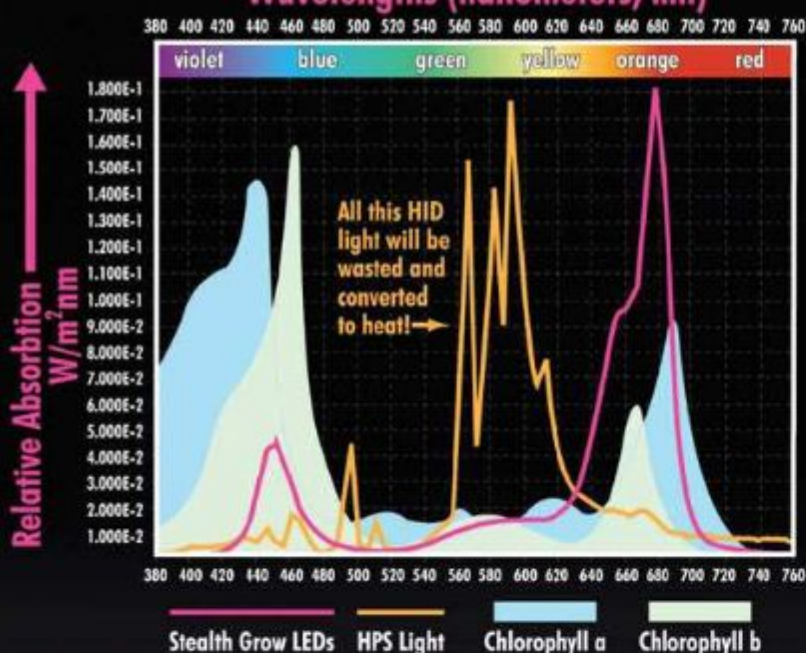
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Color Spectrum – Stealth Grow LED's four chip color spectrum is patent pending. Stealth Grow LED's minimize unnecessary wavelengths of light and focus on efficiently producing the usable spectrum that plants can absorb!

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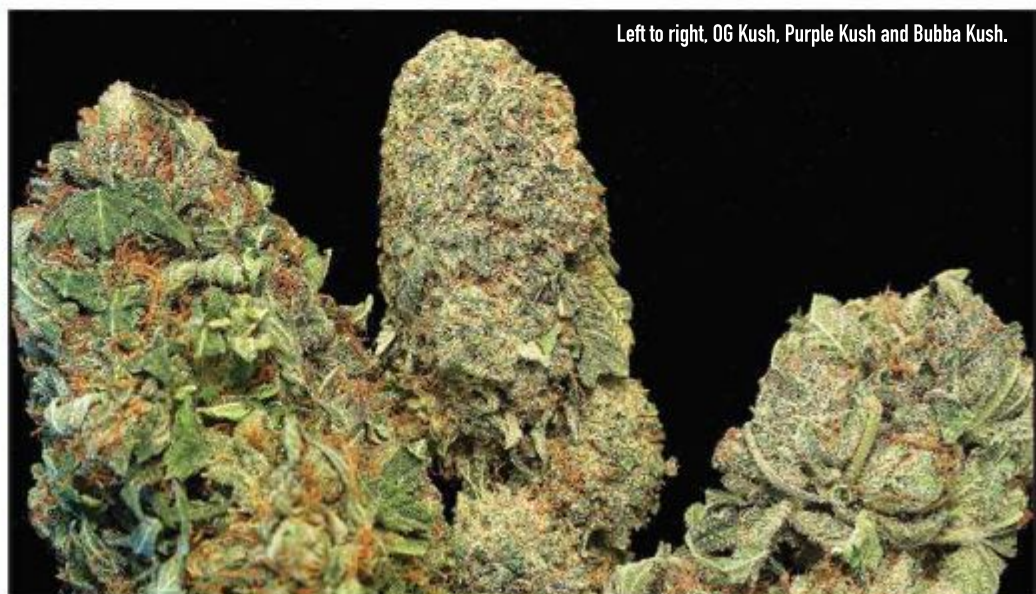
In order to process the crop more efficiently at harvest, automated trimming machines are used. These industrial crop trimmers do an excellent job of manicuring the excess leaves from the buds without damaging the trichomes (the fine glands containing the resins that give cannabis its medicinal effect). Once the branches have been prepped, the untrimmed buds are placed into one end of the machine and come out perfectly trimmed on the other. It may take only five to 10 minutes to process a pound of manicured, high-potency buds after the untrimmed buds have been removed from the stocks.

In Canada, medical-marijuana growers are not permitted under the federal guidelines to further process the trimmed material or buds (for example, by concentrating the resins into hash, oils or tinctures). The harvested buds are carefully dried on a series of racks and screens. The internal environment of the drying room is carefully monitored, and the buds are gently inspected throughout the drying and curing process to ensure that no post-harvest diseases or contaminations occur.

MEDICINAL QUALITY

After drying and curing, the medical-grade cannabis is packaged into vacuum-sealed packs to maintain freshness and potency. Strains like Chemdog can be extremely pungent, so if they're not professionally packaged, transporting or carrying even a small amount of medicine can lead to hassles for the patient. The CannaPharm Compassion Society works closely with its clients and values their feedback—the society even provides subsidies to those enduring financial hardships, as well as free vaporizers. The patients are also given lots of information to help them make intelligent and informed choices about their medicine.

Finally, people who wish to use medical marijuana are required to obtain an Authorization to Possess (ATP) license from Health Canada, but this isn't a quick or simple process. The conditions for which medical marijuana is authorized are quite grave—for example, cancer, HIV/AIDS, spinal-cord damage, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and severe arthritis. The patient's condition needs to be verified and the application approved by a general practitioner who holds a title with a Provincial College of Physicians. The application is then reviewed and processed by the federal government before the individual is issued an ATP license. ✨



Left to right, OG Kush, Purple Kush and Bubba Kush.



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