



HIGH TIMES' original Black Tuna cover story tells the sad, true tale of the one who didn't get away.

families, very hospitable. I never felt the least bit of danger there. Except, of course, the time we were kidnapped by the Colombian Army on the airstrip [see page 90].

#### What was Santa Marta Gold like?

For most people, it was a legend, because they didn't grow much of it. Most people think they've seen it, but they never really did, because very little made its way out of Colombia. Real Santa Marta Gold was so sticky that you couldn't break it up to roll a joint, because it all just stuck to



The erstwhile Black Tuna has returned to his original day job as a sought-after product pitchman.

### 'Real Santa Marta Gold was so sticky that you couldn't break it up to roll a joint.'

your fingers. I don't know how Santa Marta would complete with some of the best stuff today, but it was special for its day.

#### When you were convicted, what was the effect on your family?

Devastating. My wife had a nervous breakdown. My son, who was four, asked me the saddest words in the English language: "Daddy, when are you coming home?" Where's the answer? What do you tell the kid you went fishing with every day for an hour or two? The one you watched Saturday-morning cartoons with? What do you tell that child?

#### What did you tell him?

I have no recollection. I know I lied: "I'll be home

soon." What do you tell a four-year-old kid?

#### How were you treated in prison? Did your renown follow you?

When I got to prison, yeah, I was a big shot. The government made me a big shot. I would have preferred to be invisible from the beginning. But at the time, everyone in prison still wanted to become a pot smuggler, so they'd come to me for advice. And they really didn't have the common sense to realize that it was a dying business—and that if I was doing 64 years in the Super Max, why on earth would anyone want to be like me?

When I first went to prison, the attitude towards marijuana was sensible. I heard one warden say: "We're not going to bother people smoking weed, because if they're smoking weed, they're laid-back. They're eating commissary, watching TV, reading a book, listening to the radio—not starting trouble."

When they gave urine tests, they didn't test for marijuana, because it was an extra nine dollars and they really didn't want to know. I can remember shakedowns where they would come in looking for weapons, and when they found pot, they'd throw it on the ground and step on it. But when they left, it was still there. That changed radically when Nancy Regan started "Just Say No." They made the prisons change marijuana from a Class III violation to a Class 1 violation, and suddenly it became very serious if you got caught with pot. But there was always plenty of pot in prison ... I heard about it! ✨



The High Life: In better days, Platshorn samples some 70's-era smoke...

## BOOK EXCERPT: THE BLACK TUNA DIARIES

An exclusive look inside the 'true story of America's most notorious marijuana smuggler.'

### DEATH BY FIRING SQUAD

Late 1977

The gun barrel painfully prodding the base of my spine was attached to an ancient M-1 carbine, a present from my Uncle Sam. Attached to the carbine was a short, tan Indio in the uniform of the Colombian Army. He forced me into the back of a rusting step-van, parked on a dirt trail, near a clandestine airstrip, deep in the mountainous jungle of Colombia. It was over 100 degrees in the damp equatorial forest and even hotter in the moldy interior of the truck. Our entire loading crew—a dozen very large, fierce Guarjiran Indians, plus two pilots (Captain Beercan and Bo, an ex-NFL player also called *El Gigante*)—crowded onto the van's two narrow benches.

We had been captured on the airstrip. The soldiers, claiming they were not paid their customary "landing fees," said they were taking us to the nearby town of La Cienega to shoot us as a warning to other smugglers who might neglect their *mordida*. Meanwhile, our DC-3 and its cargo of 5,000 pounds of Santa Marta Gold, the most sought-after marijuana in South America, sat on the airstrip guarded by a squadron of Colombian soldiers.

In truth, we'd paid our "landing fees," but

the owners of the busy jungle airfield had misappropriated the money. It was the rainy season, and this was the only usable landing field on the Atlantic Coast, so they'd load four or five planes a day, but only pay *mordida* for two or three—pocketing the difference. It was our bad luck to be on the field when the army showed up to collect past-due accounts.

Held at gunpoint in the equatorial sun for over four hours with nothing to drink, we were already dehydrated. Climbing into the step-van was like leaving a sauna for an oven. The last to enter, I sat by the open rear doors. Captain Beercan, in the far dark corner, was already passed out, while *El Gigante*, squeezed between two large Guarjirans, tried not to look scared.

I was still stoned from handling 5,000 pounds of primo pot in the hot sun. To avoid thinking about the firing squad, I closed my eyes and asked myself, "How in the hell did you end up here?" ✨

Hear the Black Tuna tell more from this story and other adventures in an exclusive video at [hightimes.com/blacktuna/](http://hightimes.com/blacktuna/)—or, better yet, visit [blacktunadiaries.com](http://blacktunadiaries.com) and order your copy of his book today!



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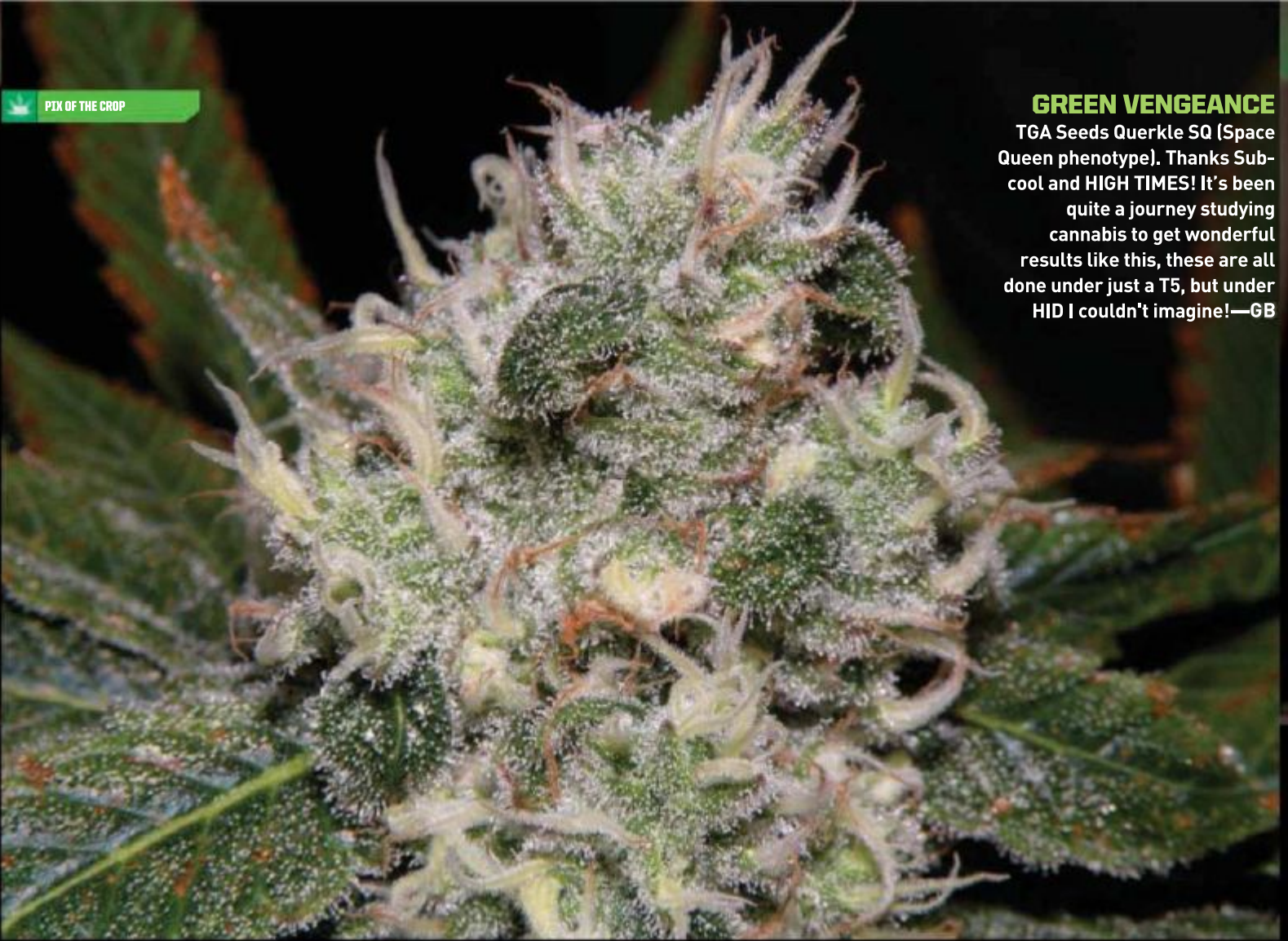




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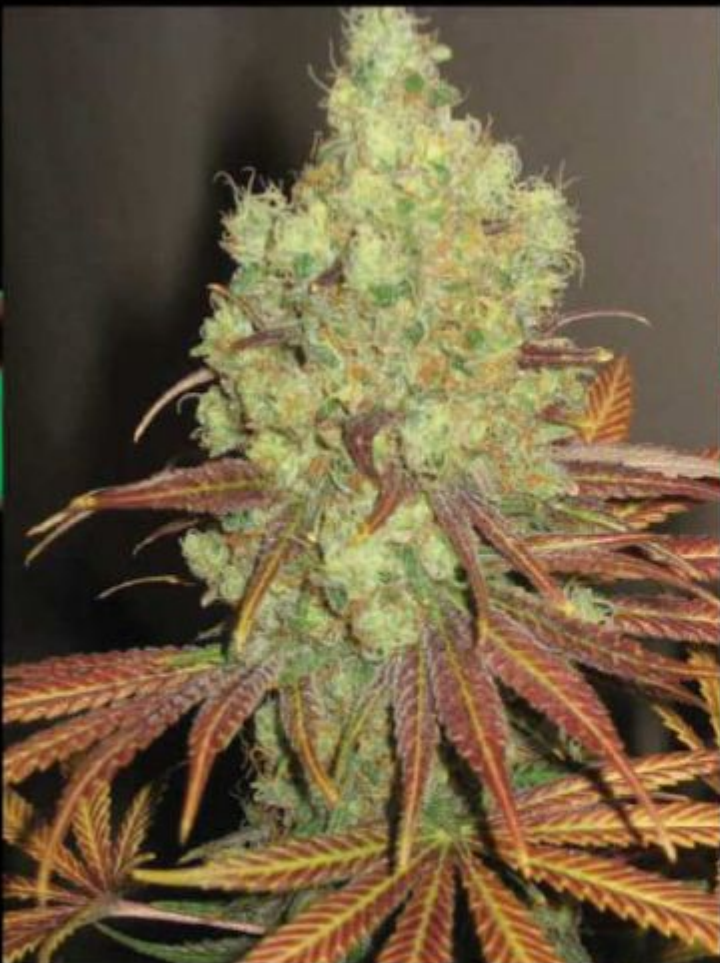






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Hope my lovely lady makes it into HT.  
—Mr. Wallberry, a.k.a. Wallzee



**YIELD OF DREAMS** (above)

Buds are Master Kush from HomeGrown Seeds.—Trex Cali

**CANADA'S FINEST** (left)

Here's a pic of my Pineapple Candy. It's a cross from a local breeder from here in Ottawa (Cotton Candy x Pineapple). These ladies were grown in soil under 1000-watt HPS bulbs.—Kushfarma

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



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# EVERYTHING MEDICAL & MORE

What do the next 35 years have in store for medical marijuana? HIGH TIMES asked Dr. Lester Grinspoon, associate professor emeritus of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, author of *Marijuana Reconsidered* and *Marijuana: The Forbidden Medicine*, and the force behind [marijuana-uses.com](http://marijuana-uses.com), for a prognosis. While he remains upbeat about the chances for significant marijuana-law reform in the near future, Dr. Grinspoon sent this cautionary note about the potential dangers of allowing the pharmaceuticalization of cannabis to proceed unchallenged.

## PATENTED POT VS. THE 'HERBAL' GOLD STANDARD

*"There is no patent. Could you patent the sun?"*

—Jonas Salk, on why he wouldn't patent the polio vaccine.

Patented marijuana strains and medicines threaten the re-legalization movement, curb information sharing, set up a monopoly for certain breeders and medicine producers, and limit patients to a more expensive and inferior product. Even worse, for the pharmaceutical companies that control them, the economic value of these products will depend on one thing: the severity of the prohibition against using cannabis in its natural form.

By Lester Grinspoon and David Malmo-Levine

During the last decade, a split has developed within the marijuana community. One side believes that the community's interests are best served by patenting marijuana strains and medicines in order to make them safer, more effective, more legitimate, better understood and—perhaps most importantly—more readily accessible, since they will be legally available.

The other group believes that naturally grown cannabis is the "gold standard": the safest, cheapest and most effective form of cannabis medicine currently available. This second group disputes the notion that patented marijuana strains offer any real advantages to the consumer, challenges any claim of exclusive rights to sell a particu-



Dr. Grinspoon addresses the 4th annual national NORML conference in 1975.

lar strain of marijuana, and opposes any exploitation through patents and prohibition that forces patients to settle for an inferior product.

Within the first group, we find companies such as Britain's GW Pharmaceuticals, who in 2006 began selling (with the help of the pharmaceutical giant Bayer) its whole-plant cannabis spray, Sativex, in Canada to treat multiple sclerosis and cancer pain. Still the only patented "whole plant" pot medicine on the market, Sativex is a cannabis-tincture mouth spray made from live marijuana plants, with a THC/CBD ratio of approximately 1:1. The tincture requires 15 to 40 minutes to take effect and comes in a 5.5 ml spray bottle costing \$125 Canadian (currently around \$102 US)—approximately enough for an average patient's 10-day supply.

Recently, GW won approval to sell Sativex by prescription in Britain and parts of Spain, while various other, smaller companies are actively looking to patent cannabis medicines, cannabis strains or both—including Toronto-based Cannasat Therapeutics and Nevada-based Dynamic Alert Ltd. Even the US government has gotten in on the action: In 2003, Patent No. 6,630,507 was awarded to the US Department of Health and Human Services. The patent states that cannabinoids are neuroprotectants and anti-inflammatory agents, useful in the prevention and treatment of stroke, trauma, autoimmune disorders, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and HIV dementia, as well as many other diseases.

Not to be outdone, in 2005, GW Pharmaceuticals—along with its partner, Bayer—patented an individual strain of cannabis (dubbed Grace) in Canada under the Plant Breeders' Rights Act, which protects plant patents for up to 20 years. This

patent was abandoned in late 2008.

Proponents of plant patents contend that these government-sanctioned marijuana monopolies encourage innovation by helping to cover the costs associated with research and development. They also contend that such monopolies allow for standardization of the end product, create medicines superior to traditional botanicals, and will speed up the legalization of medical marijuana—or, at the very least, expand the number of people with access to it. The evidence, however, proves otherwise.

In the past, pharmaceutical giants like Parke-Davis & Co., Merck, Eli Lilly, Upjohn, Wyeth, and Sharp & Dohme all made huge sums of money after undertaking considerable research with unpatented botanical medicines, including cannabis, opium and coca. Meanwhile, the expensive "safety and efficacy" protocols that synthetic medicines must undergo in order to be approved for use were instituted as a response to the pharmaceutical industry's sales of untested toxic synthetics, such as elixir of sulfanilamide in 1936 and thalidomide in 1960. Herbs had nothing to do with the creation of these protocols.

Herbal marijuana, in fact, has been thoroughly tested over many centuries by its literally millions of users. Consequently, cannabis doesn't require the same testing as new compounds, much as aspirin—known since the beginning of the 20th century to be a safe and efficacious medicine—has never been put to the same risk-benefit analysis required of new synthetics.

According to James Duke, a botanical expert formerly with the US Department of Agriculture, pharmaceutical drugs kill over 100,000 people every year in the US; herbs kill less than 50. Herbs are

also the primary source of medicine for 80 percent of the world's population, according to the World Trade Organization. And given all the recalled synthetics up to the present day—such as Baycol, Bextra and Vioxx (to name just three of many)—one has to question the reliability of the current system of drug testing.

Unfortunately, marijuana monopolies are nothing new. One can argue that the prohibition of Moses' cannabis-infused holy anointing oil, *kannah-bosm*, which was denied to all but priests and kings (see Exodus 30:32), was a type of marijuana monopoly. When botanical medicine became popular once again in the 1400s, women healers were first called "unschooled" and, later, "witches" to prevent them from competing with the newly emerging male pharmacists. The same thing happened in the mid-1800s, except this time, instead of "witches," these botanical healers were denounced as "quacks."

The modern version of this monopoly began in 1910 with the Flexner Report, which succeeded in closing down all the naturopathic and herbal-medicine schools in the United States by the 1930s. Partially engineered by the Rockefeller Foundation, the elimination of these schools protected the Rockefeller family's financial investments in pharmaceuticals from the botanical competition.

Seventy years later, what we know for certain is that nobody should have a monopoly on the emerging herbal health-care economy, including medical marijuana—and this is especially true of the giant pharmaceutical corporations, which have a terrible track record when it comes to protecting the safety and interests of patients and society.

Perhaps one day, those who are currently attempting to patent cannabis medicines and strains will embrace the example of Jonas Salk, who discovered the polio vaccine but never got around to "patenting the sun." After all, how can you patent an herbal medicine that represents both a gift from nature and the work of traditional medicinal-plant breeders over thousands of years? It's up to the entire cannabis community, and especially the activists among us, to ensure that this time, sharing is rewarded instead of hoarding. ✨

Learn more, or contact Dr. Grinspoon, at [marijuana-uses.com](http://marijuana-uses.com).



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MUNCHIES

# HERE'S BUD IN YER PIE

Walnut pie drenched in cannabis butter is much tastier than salad! By Ashley Boudreaux

One of the hippest people I know recently called me to ask if he could give a famous actress my number, since I'm always down with playing hostess and representing the 504.

"She's really cool, and she loves good weed," he said, which sounded just fine to me: I figured I could whip up a little something for the column and feed her, too. Knock out two birds with a good stone.

Procuring tasty smoke while traveling isn't too difficult, but finding tasty home-cooked food is another matter entirely—especially ganja food. So I gave it great consideration, the potential feeding of this potential visitor. I said to myself: "Well, I'm not sure that young and beautiful actresses eat at all, but if they do, surely it's limited to tiny vertical configurations of truffles and saffron and twigs of some endangered tropical shrubbery—or perhaps just salads. But how the hell do you put weed in a salad?"

Salad dressing. Duh.

I had developed an awesome sesame-ginger dressing a few years back. Reworking it with ganja sounded promising, until I realized that sesame oil has an extremely low smoke point, and therefore doesn't do well under extended exposure to heat. The same can be said for all nut oils, so that blueberry-hazelnut-cannabis vinaigrette over butter lettuce with goat cheese wasn't going to work, either. Damn. *Damn.*

Grapeseed oil sounded much more promising as a base, but by the time I figured that out, I was already sulking about my newly found limitations and vowing to learn the smoke points of all the various oils by heart.

Then it hit me. This is New Orleans—we don't eat *salad* unless it's buried under something deep-fried. And if it can't be deep-fried, then we smother it in sauce. Sometimes we even do both. But we don't count calories, and we don't believe in subsisting off tiny vertical sculptures of gold-crusting bean sprouts and dodo-bird eggs or whatever the hell they're eating this season in Los Angeles.

We eat bad things, and we make our guests do the same.

Mayan walnut pie infused with stoney goodness.



Fuck salad.

Now don't let the fact that this month's recipe is a heart attack on a plate dissuade you from making this tried-and-true standby for special occasions. I've thrown it together for company so often that it's hard to believe I forgot to chronicle it before now. Ah, the perils of stoner memory.

I usually make two pies: one for company, and one for my man to squirrel away in a dark, lonely corner and eat surreptitiously over the course of the next few days. He likes to heat it up and pair it with coffee for breakfast, hovering over it like a winter-afflicted wolf guarding a warm kill. It's truly disturbing.

Although I usually mix the ganja with butter in a double-boiler over low heat for 45 minutes before I cook with it, in this case you can just throw the weed right in there and appreciate the added fiber in your diet. We need all the fiber we can get in Louisiana. Besides, given the lengthy bake time on this pie, there's plenty of fat/cannabinoid bonding action going on right there in the oven, so there's really no need to drag out the whole affair.

In the end, making this was easy—but keeping it out of my man's grubby paws and saving a slice for the actress? That was impossible. Sorry, little mama. Care for some salad? ✨

## MAYAN WALNUT PIE

7 grams cannabis shake, very finely trimmed and cleaned  
4 tbsp salted butter, melted  
3 eggs

1 cup dark brown sugar  
1 cup dark corn syrup  
1 tsp real vanilla  
1/4 tsp ground cinnamon  
1 1/2 cups chopped walnuts  
3/4 cups dark (or milk) chocolate chips

Mix the first seven ingredients in a large bowl until uniformly smooth. Layer chocolate on the bottom of a pie shell. Cover with walnuts, and then pour the liquid mixture evenly over the walnuts and chocolate. Cover loosely with foil to prevent burning. Bake in the oven at 310°F for 90 minutes. Let cool. **Stones seven.**



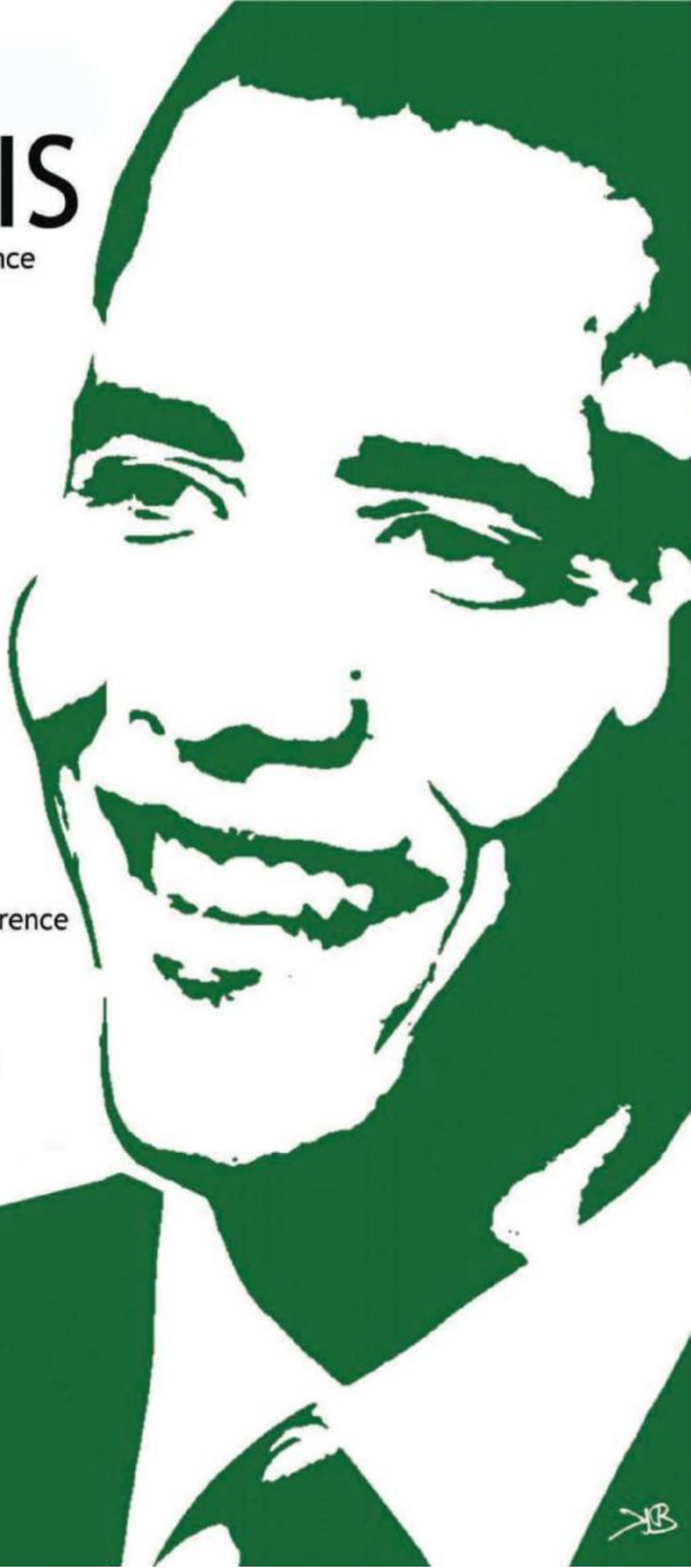


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JB



# HERE'S TO HIGH TIMES

**NORML's "head" honcho pays tribute to his favorite magazine. By Keith Stroup**

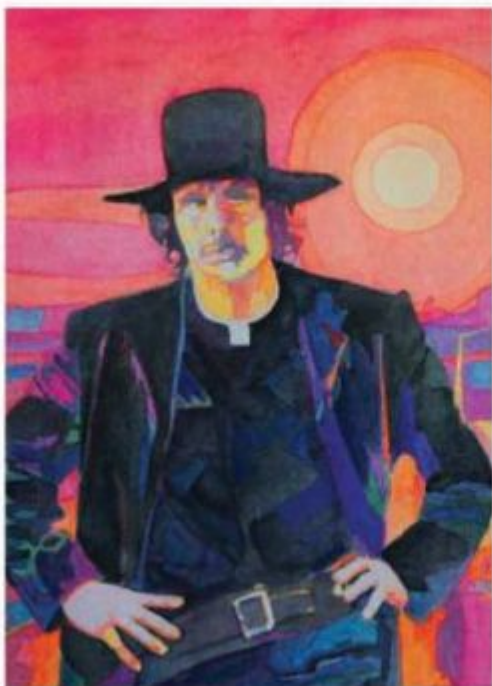
Thirty-five years and still growing! Not bad for a magazine started by a radical political activist who funded his venture (and his lifestyle) by smuggling marijuana—tons and tons of it, much of which he flew into the country himself in his own plane.

Tom Forçade, whose real name was Kenneth Gary Goodson, was a lefty political activist with the Youth International Party (a.k.a. the Yippies) who spent much of the 1972 Democratic National Convention in Miami—the one that nominated George McGovern for president—sitting in what he designated as the People's Pot Tree, selling bags of marijuana to anyone willing to approach from below with a fistful of cash. I know this for a fact, as this is how I first met Tom—and I'm happy to report that the pot was first-rate.

A couple of years later, I was delighted to be back in touch with him, this time when he announced that he was starting a new magazine for marijuana smokers. By then, I was aware of Tom's work with the Underground Press Syndicate—his attempt to network together the nation's many underground or free papers. He wanted to make sure the counterculture was educated in the political philosophy of the left, and HIGH TIMES was in large part inspired by the difficulties Tom encountered getting his message out through the traditional media. Fuck the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*; Tom decided that he would simply start his own magazine to reach the masses—or at least the masses' leftmost fringe.

One of my favorite Tom Forçade stories involves an occasion in the early '70s when we were short of money at NORML. I called Tom in New York to ask if he was in a position to make a significant contribution. He invited me to meet him at his apartment in New York, where I found him babysitting several hundred pounds of marijuana, still in bales. He was clearly in the process of getting rid of his latest load! We stood in the few square feet at the front of the room that remained free and discussed NORML's latest work. Then Tom handed me a paper bag with \$10,000 in it.

We didn't discuss the 800-pound elephant in the room—that mountain of marijuana. I tried to ignore it and to put out of my mind what might happen to me personally, and to NORML institutionally, should



**'I found Tom Forçade in New York, babysitting several hundred pounds of marijuana, still in bales.'**

the authorities happen to raid Tom at just that moment. Fortunately, there were no surprises—the money made it back safely to DC, and Tom and I lived to work another day.

There was another time when I called Tom asking for cash and he readily agreed—but this time he advised me that someone would be leaving a bag of money outside NORML's Washington office on the weekend, and all he asked was that I publicly release the note that would be attached to the gift. Like clockwork, the following Sunday morning I heard the NORML doorbell ring (I lived in a room above the office) and found a black backpack on the doorstep with \$5,000 in cash inside.

As promised, I walked back into the NORML office and dutifully called the Associated Press bureau. The following morning, we were delighted to see a picture and story running in papers all across America, including the *Washington Post*—although, oddly, not a single journalist called to ask if I might know a little bit more about this mysterious confederation of dealers who had left the money. It was a more innocent time in America, of course; I doubt whether anyone would stay out of jail if they accepted funding from smugglers today. (As for my little indiscretion, the statute of limitations has run out, I am delighted to say.)

Tom, who suffered from depression at times, eventually killed himself in 1978. Afterwards, all of his friends gathered at the top of the World Trade Center, where we smoked some of his ashes in a couple of joints and said our goodbyes. HIGH TIMES and NORML have always maintained the close relationship that Tom and I forged throughout the years, remaining political allies and ideological soulmates.

So happy 35th birthday, HIGH TIMES! And may we soon celebrate the legalization of marijuana that Tom Forçade so ably pursued during the earliest years of this magazine. We at NORML are proud to be your allies in this noble struggle. ✨

*R. Keith Stroup, Esq., is the founder and legal counsel of NORML, [www.norml.org](http://www.norml.org). This column is largely drawn from his forthcoming book, *The High Road: A Cultural History of Marijuana in America*.*

## Ask Dr. Mitch

Dr. Mitch, I saw a headline claiming that marijuana damages DNA. Is that true? It seems impossible.

Flip Lid

**Hi Flip,**  
The study that generated all this news is easy to discredit. Researchers introduced the smoke from 10 joints into DNA taken from baby cows. The smoke damaged the DNA, which in turn can lead to tumors in cells. But this contrived study hardly proves that cannabis causes cancer: The dosage is insane, and studies using real humans have shown no association. So don't worry—there's no possibility of having a kid with one eye in the middle of its head because you smoke pot.

What's your take on joints vs. blunts?

Phil Rapper

**Hi Phil,**  
The tobacco in the wrapper of the blunt does have an impact—a new study shows that joints provide more THC and less carbon monoxide (the noxious gas that creates lung problems). Of course, the vaporizer beats them both.

How is pot able to make things funnier?

Sid

**Hi Sid,**  
No one knows for sure. One theory of humor suggests that laughter requires a playful mindset, which marijuana certainly enhances. Another theory holds that humor requires seeing things in two different ways simultaneously, which marijuana also seems to enhance. Unfortunately, humor research isn't the government's top priority these days, so maybe Comedy Central will fund a study to uncover the secret.

Did the EPA prove that marijuana causes cancer? Say it ain't so!

Texas Metal

**Hi TM,**  
The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment has added marijuana smoke to its list of carcinogens, but a study of head and neck cancers involving over 2,000 participants suggests otherwise. Another study followed cannabis users for decades and showed no link to lung cancer. Also, the COEHHA's list includes alcohol, aspirin and birth-control pills, as well as different glues that you can't use in kindergarten. Can you say "overkill"?

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



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Buds of Portland's finest strains grow through a trellis toward a giant overhead light reflector.

# GREEN CITY

**Portland, OR, is a verdant paradise in the Pacific Northwest that ranks No. 1 in urban sustainability, quality of life—and high-grade marijuana. Story & photos by Xtra Flava**

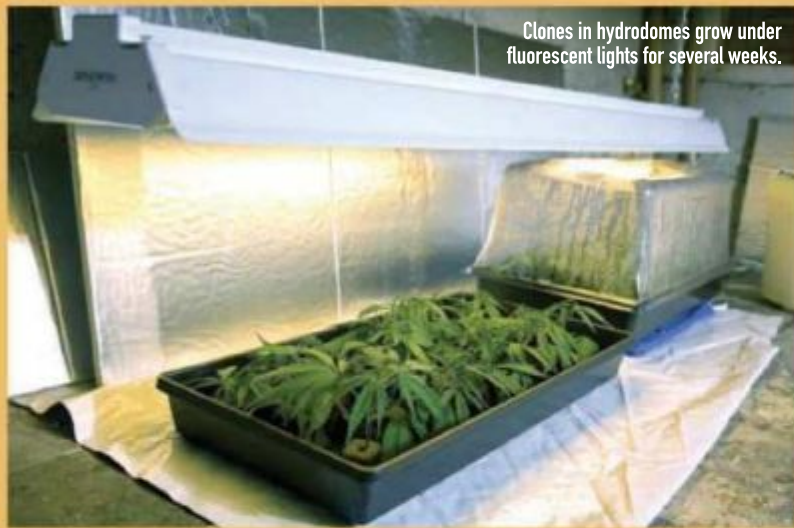


Mt. Hood at dusk.

**P**ortland, OR, is a beautiful place, with flowers blooming in overgrown yards, lots of great coffeehouses—to keep residents alert during the endless gray days of winter—and an environmentally advanced infrastructure. The city boasts strict green-building guidelines; Styrofoam and polystyrene takeout containers are banned; and the MAX light-rail transport system and TriMet buses—with bike racks on the back—round out PDX, recently named the “most bike-friendly major city in the US” by the League of American Bicyclists.

Portland—with less police harassment than Seattle—is also the nation’s greenest city in terms of homegrown marijuana production. From Southern Oregon to Vancouver, BC, the Pacific Northwest has long led North America in the quantity of quality weed produced. In 1998, Oregon legalized medical marijuana [see accompanying sidebar, page 112], and thousands of patients and caregivers grow pot in Portland, which, with a population of 550,000, is home to about one-seventh of the state’s residents. Grow shops have proliferated, and busting smokers is a low priority for the police, who simply ticket and fine users carrying an ounce or less. It seems like a perfect place to grow great weed—and it is.





Clones in hydrodomes grow under fluorescent lights for several weeks.

## A TALE OF TWO BABAS

A visit to two friendly growers in Portland reveals a deep botanical knowledge—as well as a variety of excellent local strains discreetly developed and grown in small home operations. “I got these clones in very bad condition—near death in the snow, stunted and sick,” explains a longtime Portland grower I’ll call “Baba-1,” as he points to several now-thriving starts. Even though they had become rootbound after a month in tiny Oasis cubes, these clones of several powerful local strains were well worth their rescue from a less experienced grower. As we admire the revitalized babies, some spider mite damage is still visible on a few starts, but the mites themselves have been virtually eradicated by neem oil sprayed on the leaves, and the small plants look healthy and vigorous. Clones have also been taken from several large mothers—up to 40 clones per plant. A total of four hybrid strains are growing: Sweet Tangerine (citrus-smelling), Green Queen (primarily *sativa*), Mr. Nice (named, obviously enough, after the infamous Mr. Nice) and the oddly named Cin-X (a primarily *indica* Cinderella hybrid).

Growing good weed in Portland is surprisingly easy, and effective grow techniques are widely known. The grow store is the first stop for most horticulturists. I ask if 90 percent of the local grow shop’s business comes from pot growers. “Ninety percent?” exclaims Baba-1. “One hundred percent! People of all colors are in the grow store, with smiles of recognition on their faces and an unspoken respect for one another.” Green city, indeed. “But,” he cautions, “don’t get too close to sloppy growers—they’ll give you spider mites!”

The next step is to set up a room. Baba-1 favors using inexpensive silver-sided insulation boards that he simply throws up on the wall or frames with two-by-fours to create a reflective grow space of any size. His veg room is bright under a 1,000-watt metal halide (MH) lamp, and the flowering room employs two 600-watt Sun System high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamps, all mounted under broad “China hat” reflectors. Each of his quiet, German-made 240-volt Eurosystems ballast units can power two 120-volt lamps. This room is just getting started, and Baba-1 has plants in several different stages of vegetation in preparation for an ongoing Sea of Green operation



Starts are watered individually to prevent root rot.

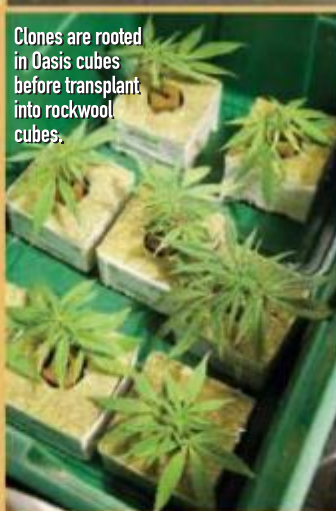
that will produce 24 plants every month.

To start his clones, Baba-1 dips them into Olivia’s Cloning Gel before inserting them into small Oasis cubes that grow for two weeks under humidity domes and constant fluorescent lights. He then prepares 4-inch Grodan rockwool cubes by mixing diluted Olivia’s Cloning Solution and fish emulsion into a rockwool slurry (he uses a respirator when working with rockwool) that he pours into the holes before inserting the Oasis cubes with the rooted clones. The plants will vegetate under 18 hours of light per day for several more weeks in two large ebb-and-flow trays containing German-made Hydroton expanded clay pellets, with only 12 Grodan cubes per tray to allow lots of light to hit each plant. Baba-1 always uses dechlorinated, pH-neutral water for everything (letting it stand several days to evaporate the chlorine), and cautions that excess water should be shaken out of the Oasis cubes to avoid root rot. No nutrient solution is used for the early vegetative cycle.

When the plants are ready, they’re transferred to large pots filled with organic soil and vegged some more before being brought into the flowering room to grow under the two 600-watt HPS lamps for eight weeks using the standard 12/12-hour



Healthy plants flower under a pair of 600-watt lamps.



Clones are rooted in Oasis cubes before transplant into rockwool cubes.

day/night light cycle. For the bloom phase, Baba-1 adds his secret formula to “enhance a really good product,” Metanaturals Bloom Formula, which he uses at the recommended strength. He’s only got one Green Queen and two Sweet Tangerine plants flowering at the moment, but this will soon change. “I should be able to pull down 1.5 to 2 pounds per month,” he surmises, with most of that going to medical-marijuana patients or dispensaries.

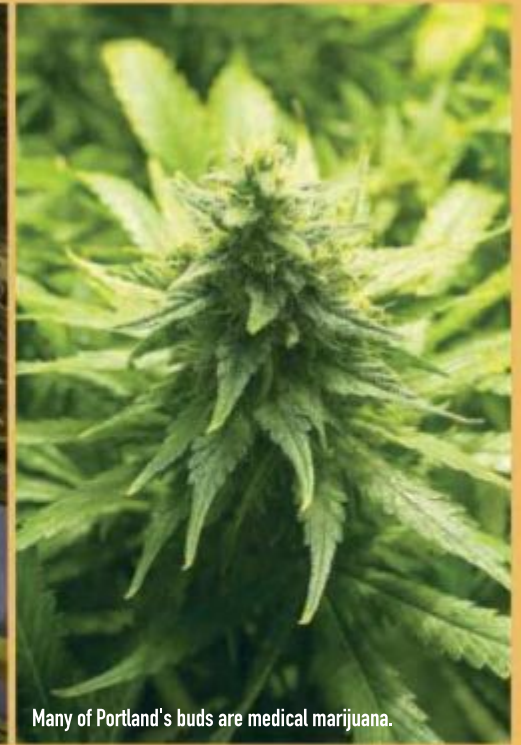
His home is on a nice street in a good residential area. Is Baba-1 concerned about the neighbors? He points out the window toward a guy working in his yard. “The house across

the street has a growroom also—but they don’t know that I know,” he says, then smiles slyly. “In this neighborhood, I’ve seen stem trash in the front yard. The police have so much else to do, they can’t be bothered to look at my compost pile. They have bigger problems—real crime. The PDX gang war has been heating up.” (A rash of deadly shootings between Bloods and Crips—described by police as a “crisis”—began after Darshawn Cross, 31, was gunned down during a funeral in the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church on December 12, 2008, and this normally safe town has been feeling the stress.)

For his part, Baba-1 feels just like any other resident trying to improve the local quality of life during difficult times: “I put my money back into the community where I live. They always do something good with it.”

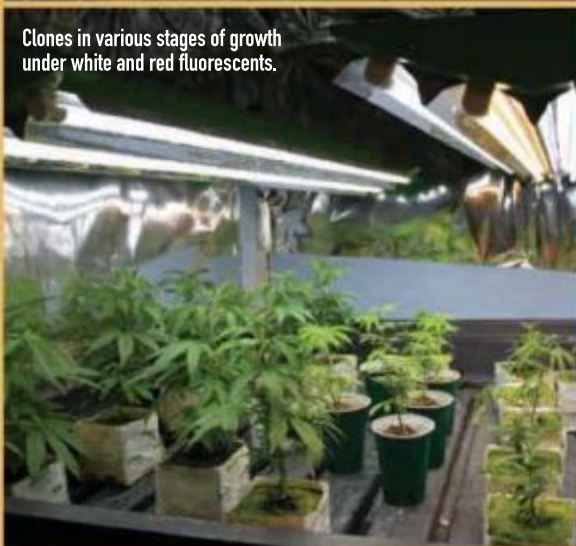


A variety of Northwest strains thrive under a broad reflector.



Many of Portland's buds are medical marijuana.

Clones in various stages of growth under white and red fluorescents.



An EZ-Clone machine nurtures clones hydroponically.

A carbon filter is a must for healthy air and odor removal.



## BABA-2

We walk down the street to visit Baba-1's buddy; we'll call him "Baba-2." I admire the home's cozy interior before descending into the basement to glimpse another pair of clean vegetation and flowering rooms. Baba-2 is also growing Mr. Nice, Cin-X and the popular Sweet Tangerine, plus Kong and extra-sticky Afghoey. He uses an EZ-Clone hydroponic cloning machine (ez-clone.com) to give his babies a good start under dual 40-watt fluorescents, adding some Dutch Master Zone root conditioner, Olivia's Cloning Solution and Hydrozyme to the water. After 10 days, the clones are transplanted to cups or Grodan rockwool cubes and continue to veg for another three weeks under 24-hour Philips fluorescents, including one red tube to promote growth. For the later stages of vegetation, he augments the amendment solution with Botanicare Grow (3-1.5-4) formula and adds Botanicare Bloom formula (1-5-5), both at recommended strength, during the last week before transferring the plants to the flowering room. "I use Botanicare *everything*," Baba-2 explains: "pumps, fertilizer, tables and tubing."

The flowering room is where the magic really happens. Baba-2 has two trays of plants in different Sea of Green stages growing in the Grodan cubes atop Hydroton pellets. Each tray is positioned under a 600-watt HPS lamp with a "China hat" reflector, but here the big buds on the larger plants are growing above a horizontal white-wire trellis, the kind vendors use to hang their wares vertically. Some of the colas are huge—without the trellis, the plants would certainly fall over. The trellis above the younger, shorter plants has been elevated by a clever string-and-pulley system that allows height adjustment. All of the strains will flower for eight weeks or less. Botanicare Bloom formula and Micro-Gold micronutrient trace-mineral concentrate are added at the recommended strength to the 50-gallon reservoir, and the plants are flushed with plain water for the last five days before harvest. A large carbon filter controls odor. And there are absolutely no spider mites.



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Green Queen and Pineapple Trainwreck strains vegetate in this medical marijuana garden.

# OREGON MEDICAL MARIJUANA ROCKS

In November 1998, the people of Oregon voted to legalize medical marijuana, and the rest is Pacific Northwest history. As of July 2009, 20,307 patients possess state medical-marijuana cards, 10,378 caregivers hold cards for these patients, and 2,983 physicians have signed applications, according to the official Oregon Medical Marijuana Program website ([oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ommp/data.shtml](http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ommp/data.shtml)). The rules state: "A patient or the patient's designated primary caregiver may possess up to six mature marijuana plants, 24 ounces of usable marijuana, and a patient and the patient's designated primary caregiver may possess a combined total of up to 18 marijuana seedlings or starts." A caregiver may grow for up to four patients.

One of these Oregon caregivers is a compassionate horticulturist we'll call Ms. B. The limited number of plants that can be legally grown provides extra incentive to grow only the best cannabis with the greatest yield, and Ms. B—licensed by the state—is definitely maximizing her opportunity to offer Oregon's finest to several patients in need.

Ms. B starts with clones of two strains, the predominantly *indica* Pineapple Trainwreck and the primarily *sativa* Green Queen, an Oregon favorite. After two weeks of rooting in small peat pots, the starts are transplanted to small cups for a few more weeks, then transferred to 26-gallon plastic containers toward the

end of the vegetation cycle. Vegetation occurs under 18 hours of light each day, before the four 1,000-watt HPS lamps—controlled by an Intermatic "Little Gray Box" timer—are cut back to 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness. The walls are covered in white plastic sheeting, which reflects light back onto the leaves.

The plants are fantastically healthy, with vigorous, deep-green growth. Ms. B uses two organic amendments throughout the life cycle of the plants: Botanicare Pure Blend Pro Grow (3-1.5-4), and Trinity Catalyst (.1-.2-.25), an advanced liquid blend for both vegetation and flowering. A description of this innovative amendment manufactured by Aurora Innovations—based in Eugene, OR—states that this "plant, root and rhizosphere catalyst ... includes such products as complex organic saponins, soy extract, yeast extract, kelp extract, humic acid, fulvic acid and L-aminos, to name a few." Whatever is in this stuff, it definitely seems to be working.

Ms. B trims the plant tops to encourage branching, and periodically clears some undergrowth to allow for greater airflow, facilitated by several fans around the room. Both strains take about eight weeks to flower, which means that Ms. B can grow several crops a year. Plants this nice beg to be sampled—but only registered patients are allowed this crop of Oregon's healing medical marijuana. 🌿



# THE WHIZZINATOR

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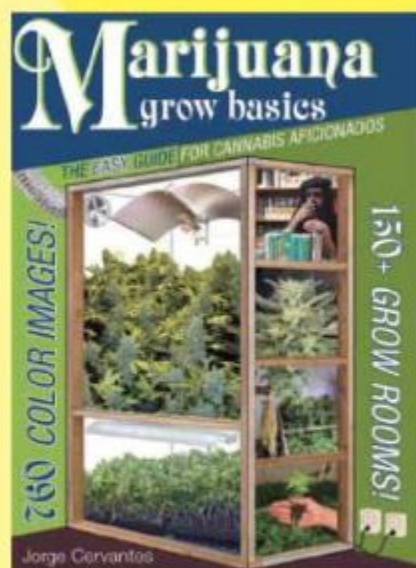


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## THE BEST OF JORGE'S RX

ANSWERS & PHOTOS BY JORGE CERVANTES

These beautiful Power Plant buds were harvested at the end of September.

### **BUDS TASTE LIKE FERTILIZER (1999)**

We love to smoke bud so much that we always run out before the next crop. Then we have to pick some of the buds before they are completely mature to stay loaded. Every time I pick buds, they taste like the fertilizer smells. Somebody told me that I should rinse the crop out with plain water and not use fertilizer for the last two weeks to flush out the fertilizer. Is this true? Wouldn't it slow the plants down and make them produce less?

*Jimbo*

Dear Jimbo,

Growing a plant for a short time and pumping it up with lots of fertilizer for the six to 10 weeks during flowering really packs that fertilizer into the plant tissue, soil or hydroponic substrate. Do this quick test to check me out and find out how much fertilizer is built up already: Take a dissolved-solids or electrical-conductivity reading (in the parts per million, or ppm) of the water coming out of your tap and record it. Flush one of your plants with 1 gallon of this plain tap water and catch the water that drains out the bottom of the pot. Now measure the ppm of the drained-out water. The chances are very good that the ppm reading of this drained-out water will be higher than the original water. The reason? Fertilizer buildup in the soil or hydroponic substrate.

This experiment proves that fertilizer builds up in the soil or hydroponic substrate. Fertilizer

also builds up in plant tissue, but is more difficult and time-consuming to flush out, since nutrients move slowly within plants. For example, plants respond to fertilizer added to the soil or hydro system in three to five days. Nutrient buildup, a.k.a. fertilizer burn, could take several weeks to manifest. It also takes several days to dissipate all this fertilizer under normal conditions.

When fertilizer salts (nutrients), regardless of origin (i.e., chemical or organic), are present at high levels in harvested buds, they will be tasted when the buds consumed. Burn a bud packed with fertilizer and it crackles and tastes like the fertilizer smells. It's that simple.

To alleviate that fertilizer taste, growers should rinse their plants with plain water from one to two weeks before harvest. This practice does retard development somewhat and may lower harvest a bit. How much is subject to debate—I have seen no evidence that the difference is notable. (I would love to hear from growers that have knowledge on this subject.) My belief is that the buds smoke so much better that a very small decrease (1% or less) is well worth the difference in taste.

There are also products—Clearing Solution and Royal Flush—that draw all the nutrients out of plant material in a couple of days. If you're using these products, you can continue to fertilize up until the last two or three days before harvest.

### **BULLSHIT! (2000)**

I'm growing White Widow. Everything is going okay, and the plant is healthy. I heard a rumor that the plant takes about eight weeks to finish, and that if you turn off the lights for two weeks, it will put every bit of THC into the buds. Is this true, and if so, can you do it with other strains?

*Everything Hydro*

Dear Hydro,

Total bullshit! Keep plants healthy and strong their entire life and they will produce the most THC. To date, a 12-hour-on/12-hour-off light regimen is best for flowering.

### **POTTED POOCH! (2000)**

I'd really like you to settle a longstanding dispute between my roommates and I. We have two dogs in our house that absolutely love to eat my pot. When the dogs eat it, they aren't responsive and become very inactive. We always thought that they were high, but in your recent (January) issue, you stated that "if you just eat dried marijuana, the only possible effect it will have is to upset your stomach." So this leads me to believe that the dogs aren't high, but are actually just sick to their stomach. My roommates seem to think that the dogs are getting high and wouldn't keep eating it if they knew it would upset their stomachs. Now, I would really appreciate it if you could settle this dispute—not only for my own satisfaction,





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JORGE'S RX

but also so that we could prevent getting our dogs sick and wasting our marijuana.

M.F.  
Arkansas

Dear M.F.,  
Your dogs are getting high. Let me expand upon this answer: My earlier answer was aimed at discouraging eating raw dope. I did not realize this letter would get so many responses! Eating raw marijuana most often gives you a stomachache and will not necessarily get you high. According to Tom Flowers, author of the *Marijuana Herbal Cookbook*, small cystolith hairs on raw cannabis will irritate the stomach. The THC is in an oil base and can be very slow to enter the bloodstream, diminishing and quashing the high. Food in the digestive system further slows absorption. If there is an adverse reaction to the bud, it is often flushed from the system quickly, leaving little time for the oil-based THC to dissolve. However, if you mix the oil-based, THC-rich resin with a solvent such as alcohol, butter or vegetable oil, the THC becomes much easier for the body to digest.

Dogs have a different system than people. They can eat many things that would make us sick just to smell. Their bodies digest food faster than humans, and their systems specialize in breaking down oil-based food. Once they eat weed, they will react to it more predictably and quicker than humans.

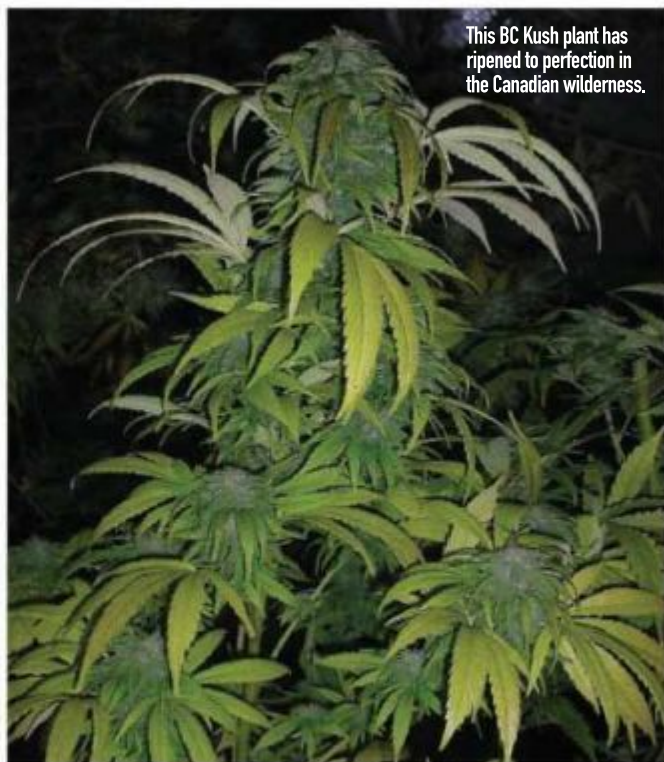
Most cannabinoids in fresh marijuana are in their acid form and will not get you high. During the drying process, which incorporates a low level of heat, the cannabinoids shed carbon-dioxide gas and become psychoactive.

### SAFE SEEDS? (2001)

I'm a frustrated, responsible 50-year-old pot smoker. I've decided to grow my own because I can't find any quality dope. I've invested in an ebb-and-flow hydroponic system and a Son-T 400-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) light. But seeds are a problem. On a scale of one to 10, how risky is it to order seeds through the mail? Which sites are the safest? Should I go to Toronto, Canada, to buy seeds? I am considering Northern Lights #5, Big Bud and a Haze—would you agree or recommend something else?

Elvis G.  
Carbondale, IL

Dear Elvis,  
Seeds are always a problem! Cannabis seeds are illegal in the United States, but they are mailed across international borders all the time. The events of September 11, 2001, and the subsequent poison anthrax letters have changed the way Americans look at security and the US mail system. Security has increased substantially in US post offices, slowing mail deliveries. But just how the added security will affect illegal marijuana seeds mailed via the Postal Service is un-



This BC Kush plant has ripened to perfection in the Canadian wilderness.

certain and could change over time. Millions of letters are sent daily in and to America, and many come from Canada and Europe. Growers are taking extra care with shipped seeds. Normally, they send them to a "safe" address.

Traveling to Canada and personally selecting and shipping seeds is a bit more expensive, but it's also a more secure way to send them.

As for your strains, Northern Lights #5 is stony and yields heavy. Big Bud yields heavy but isn't as potent. Haze has a wonderful high but yields poorly.

### MEDICAL MOVE (2002)

I have gone to jail repeatedly for smoking marijuana while on probation for consuming marijuana. I have a rare neurological disease, Tourette syndrome, which causes motor and vocal tics. All the medication that the doctors give me does nothing for me. I tried marijuana when I was 15, and it instantly stopped my twitching and feelings of insecurity. I felt normal for the first time in my life. What can I do to get my medicine and not go to jail for taking it?

Nic Branson  
Pocatello, ID

Dear Nic,  
Your persecution is cruel and inhumane and flies in the face of everything the American Constitution guarantees—"life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Two bordering states, Washington and Oregon, have passed compassionate medical-marijuana legislation. Your best option is to move to one of those states and resume your life there. It will be a cold day in hell when Idaho passes legislation for medical marijuana. I suggest that you move to a metropolitan area in Oregon or Washington; stay away from small towns dominated by conservative redneck residents. You can also contact the head of the medical-marijuana movement in Oregon: CRRH Director D. Paul Stanford, 3316 SE Stephens Street, Portland, OR 97214, tel: (503) 235-4606, e-mail: stanford@crrh.org. Paul is a good friend, and he will help you sign up to receive your medicine.



## SLAP PLANTS AROUND? (2002)

Your great book says that slapping my plants around will make them more resinous. Does this mean the better the fight, the higher the buds get you?

Ralph

Dear Ralph,

Slapping plants around may make a demented grower feel superior, smart and dominant, but it is detrimental to plant development and overall resin production. The book says, "Stress can cause plants to produce more resin, but it simultaneously causes odd and/or reduced growth."

For many years, growers claimed that mutilating plants, withholding water, erratic photoperiod regimens, etc., made them produce more and more potent resin. They also claimed that exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light increases resin production. My favorite myth is that driving a spike through the base of the main stem makes plants produce more resin—all untrue. The secret to making plants produce the most resin is to grow strong, healthy plants, not mutilate them.

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA (2004)

I live in California. How do I go about getting a medical-marijuana prescription and/or a license to grow medical marijuana?

Throbbing Pain  
Fresno, CA

Dear Throbbing,

You are in the best state of the Union! There are many medical-cannabis clubs in California. I am not aware of one in Fresno yet; the law varies from county to county and even in cities. For example, in Oakland a caregiver can grow 72 plants in a total of 36 square feet indoors and a total of 20 plants outdoors. Both the patient and the caregiver must be approved by a state-certified medical doctor. The best place to find information about a club near you is at the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative, PO Box 70401, Oakland, CA 94612-0401, office tel: (510) 832-5346, fax: (510) 986-0534, e-mail: ocbc@rxcbc.org, website: rxcbc.org. You can also grow your own medicinal marijuana if you are not too impaired by your ailment. Hit the site to have a look at all the forms and regulations. If you have any doubts, give them a call. They are very personable, compassionate and happy to help ailing patients. They will give you the guidelines and local contacts.

## BLACK-LIGHT BUDS (2005)

I have a black fluorescent light, all-purpose Miracle-Gro potting soil, six seeds and two pots. I plan to put my creations in my boiler room. If possible, help me with information to grow healthy female plants.

El Cannibus Sativa

Dear El Cannibus,

Black lights will not grow dope. They have the wrong spectrum and do not produce enough lumens. Buy a compact fluorescent (CF) lamp at the local Home Depot or other discount store. Buy one or two of the 65-watt models with their own fixture. Each 65-watt lamp will cost about \$30. You can grow a decent crop using these CF lamps.

Miracle-Gro fertilizer is oftentimes adequate, but lacks all trace elements in a soluble form. You

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may have to add a micronutrient mix. If you bought quality potting soil at the local hydroponic store or nursery, you may not have to add trace elements (micronutrients). Do not use cheap soil.

Of the six seeds (I hope they're good), two to three will probably be female. The others will be males and should be culled out as soon as their sex is distinguished. But what if you plant three seeds in each container and all the females sprout in the same container? That container will be packed with plants, and the other container will have males that should be chopped down quickly so as to not pollinate the females. Consider growing your seedlings in 1-gallon containers until they are four to six weeks old and you are able to determine their sex. Then you can transplant the females to 3-gallon containers.

Check the temperature and humidity in the boiler room during the day and night. Boiler rooms have the tendency to get pretty warm. If the temperatures stay above 80°F, plant growth will be marginal. You will also need to install a vent fan in the room to change air and possibly cool the atmosphere.

#### FLOWER INDUCTION (2006)

This is my first real attempt to grow indoors. I have tried little incandescent grow lights from Wal-Mart, but this was my first time with a metal halide. Damn, what a difference! I have a 4-by-4-foot area with a 400-watt lamp. When will I be ready to start flowering? I was planning on starting 12 hours on/12 hours off when my HPS conversion bulb gets here.

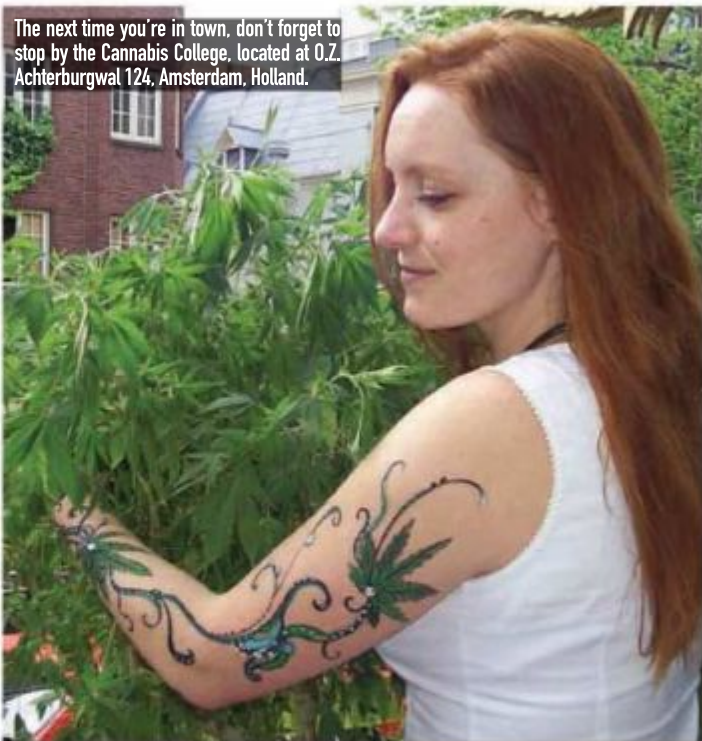
*The Rookie*

Dear Rookie,

Most of the energy from incandescent lamps is released as heat rather than light. The lumen-per-watt conversion rate of the average incandescent lamp is 17.5. The lumen-per-watt conversion rate for metal halide (MH) lamps is about 110, while high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamps produce about 140 lumens per watt. These simple statistics prove that, watt for watt, MH and HPS lamps produce five to seven times more light than incandescent lamps. A 400-watt MH will effectively illuminate a 3-foot-square garden, while a 600-watt HPS will cover a 4-foot-square garden.

Induce the seedlings to flower with a 12/12-hour day/night photoperiod about two months after the plants have sprouted. At about 60 days old, they will show their first male or female pre-flowers. Pre-flowers are the outward biological sign that cannabis plants have completed their vegetative growth and are ready to move to the next stage. If flowering is induced before pre-flowers appear, there could be complications with flowering.

The next time you're in town, don't forget to stop by the Cannabis College, located at O.Z. Achterburgwal 124, Amsterdam, Holland.



Pre-flowers are visible near the top of the plant, at about the second to fourth internode (i.e., the branch union on the main stem). In male plants, you will first see a small nub that grows into a staff or rod with small, ball-like pods. Once the plants are distinguishable as males, remove them from the garden before they shed pollen.

You will find female pre-flowers in the same location on the plant that you find male pre-flowers. However, female pre-flowers have two white, fuzzy, hair-like pistils growing from a small pod. They are very easy to identify with the naked eye. You can also use a 6x loupe to make a positive identification if you have trouble seeing the small, quarter-inch-long plant parts.

#### SQUIRTING NUGS (2007)

I've never seen "resin-squirting buds." Can you tell me how this is possible?

*Curious Grower*

Dear Curious,

Good one! "Resin-squirting buds" is a stoner saying that describes nuggets that are covered so thickly with THC-laden trichomes that the resin appears to "squirt" out of the leaf. I use the saying all the time to describe great-looking, resin-laden, frosty, sugar-coated buds literally dripping with mouth-watering trichomes so thick that the mind-bending experience will alter your consciousness forever!

If you see advertisements for "donkey-dick buds," remember: They don't squirt resin!

#### MOLASSES (2007)

I have a small indoor garden approaching flowering. Is it a good idea to add Budswell and a carbohydrate for bigger buds? If not, what would be the ideal nutrients for maximizing yield?

Truly blazed,

*Miller*

Dear Miller,

Of course it's a great idea to add a fertilizer like Budswell, which has high levels of phosphorus and low levels of nitrogen and potassium. There are all kinds of products available to increase



bud size and weight—Budswell (bat guano) was one of the originals. PK 13/14 is another product that makes buds grow bigger. It consists of 13% potassium and 14% phosphorus. Many companies, such as Canna, Hesi and General Hydroponics, have specific dosing charts that you can find at their websites: [canna.com](http://canna.com), [www.hesi.nl](http://www.hesi.nl) and [genhydro.com](http://genhydro.com).

Molasses is one of my favorite additives to make buds swell. Just dilute two to four tablespoons per gallon of water and use for irrigation during the last four to six weeks of flowering. Your buds will swell about 20%, and the smoke will be rich and sweet.

### CAREER MOVE (2008)

I am a student with aspirations to go into the horticultural field. I have much love for plants, especially marijuana. Do you know of any way I can get into the movement within an actual career field? I want the ability to help the marijuana movement. Thank you,

Joe  
Via Internet

Dear Joe,

I receive about 10 such requests every week. A few years ago, I got only one to two per week. This marks a very exciting trend. Now there are many more young, conscientious Americans that are more interested in changing the world than making a shitload of money.

Education is the key to your future and success with your goals. Enroll in a local community college with a major in botany, but take as many horticulture classes as possible. Work during summers at a nursery and do all the jobs possible. Learn everything you can about all plants. Get your hands dirty. Spend two years as a student studying horticulture and botany. Find a good advisor that will direct you into a good biology and/or botany program. Continue with school and continue working with all plants during your time off. Get a good, solid background in botany and horticulture, both intellectual and practical.

Read everything you can about growing and breeding cannabis. Apply your knowledge from the university to our favorite plant. The reason I suggest you follow this path is because, through all the years I've been around, the breeders and growers who have had the best "luck" were all well educated in the field, with biology, botany or science degrees. You will definitely provide the most help for the cannabis movement as a well-educated member. ✨

Jorge Cervantes is the author of *Marijuana Grow Basics: The Easy Guide for Cannabis Aficionados* (July 2009), *Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible* (January 2006), *Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD* (shot in BC) and *Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD II* (shot in Spain), *Indoor Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor Bible*, *Marijuana Indoors: Five Easy Gardens*, *Marijuana Outdoors: Guerrilla Growing and Jorge's Rx*. He writes for 20 magazines in 10 different languages, including Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Hit [marijuanagrowing.com](http://marijuanagrowing.com) for more information.

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1) Which of the following is *not* a hydroponic growing medium?

- a) worm castings
- b) rockwool
- c) coco peat
- d) clay pellets

2) To harvest the most potent marijuana possible, make sure all of your plants are \_\_\_\_.

- a) *sativas*
- b) hydroponic
- c) purple
- d) females

3) In a perpetual harvest, indoor growers maintain separate rooms for \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) seeds and clones
- b) vegetative and flowering plants
- c) soil and hydro
- d) male and female plants

4) Which of the following is *not* an organic pest-control solution?

- a) Neem Oil
- b) predator mites
- c) compost tea
- d) powdery mildew

5) Add \_\_\_\_ to your soil to improve its drainage.

- a) ammonia
- b) perlite
- c) nitrogen
- d) fertilizer



#### 5-POINT BONUS

Identify This Grow Light

- a) compact fluorescent
- b) metal halide
- c) LED
- d) high-pressure sodium
- e) laser-powered digital



#### 5-POINT BONUS

Identify This Strain

- a) Chem Dog
- b) Sour Diesel
- c) Trainwreck
- d) Afghani Bullrider
- e) Super Silver Haze



#### 5-POINT BONUS

This "bucket system" is an example of \_\_\_\_.

- a) hydroponic gardening
- b) deep-water culture
- c) all of the above
- d) none of the above

For the answers to this month's grow quiz, to calculate your HIGH-Q, and to take even more grow quizzes online, visit [hightimes.com/growquiz/](http://hightimes.com/growquiz/).

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## TIP OF THE MONTH

Keep a "high profile": Trim the lowest branches from all the plants in your indoor growroom regularly to aid in air circulation, fight pests and diseases, and give yourself a clear look at the garden from the bottom up. These lower branches will never bud sufficiently to make them worth your while anyway!

## NOVEMBER GARDEN CALENDAR

### INDOORS

As the coldest months of the year approach, take extra precautions to make sure that frigid outside air doesn't leak into your growroom. Check all air intakes and outtakes, and add additional insulation if necessary. Also, be aware that pests and diseases see your warm, thriving growroom as an oasis of life in the winter, so you need to inspect plants frequently and treat problems as soon as they occur.

### OUTDOORS

Winter may be cold and gray, and you may be tempted to spend it entirely beneath a blanket enjoying your most recent harvest, but first make a detailed review of your last growing season and look for ways to improve next year. Also, pick up some alfalfa hay and use it to mulch any outdoor garden patches you plan to reuse next spring. This will help to prevent nutrient loss in the soil, and it will also allow you to plant as much as two months earlier—when you're ready to plant again, simply till the mulch into the soil.



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## TOP 10 STRAINS OF 2009

Throughout the past year, senior cultivation editor Danny Danko has tested and retested countless marijuana varieties, leaving no turn unstoned in his cannabis-saturated travels. Now he presents his prestigious choices for the top pot of 2009. Find out which of the world's best bud breeders have made the highest grade.

## DISPENSARY DRAMA

The landscape for medical-marijuana dispensaries is still rife with land mines. Senior editor Dan Skye takes a closer look at the convoluted cannabis climate of Southern California.

## POT VS. BOOZE

Mason Tvert, the co-founder of Safer Alternatives for Enjoyable Recreation (SAFER), celebrates the release of his new book, *Marijuana Is Safer*, in our feature interview. Mason argues that one simple, easy-to-explain truth—marijuana *is* safer than alcohol—holds the key to legalizing the herb, once and for all. Added bonus: An excerpt from *Marijuana Is Safer* that will instantly make you a more effective pot activist.

## COFFEESHOP PROFILE: BARNEY'S

Barney's is known internationally as one of Amsterdam's finest coffeeshop chains. Bobby Black explores the history of the shop, its rise to success, and the extensive renovations it's undergoing for this year's Cannabis Cup.

## THE DISCO BISCUITS

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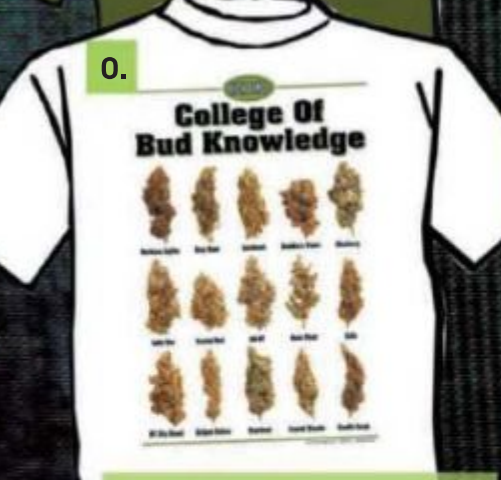


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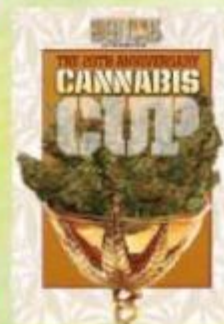


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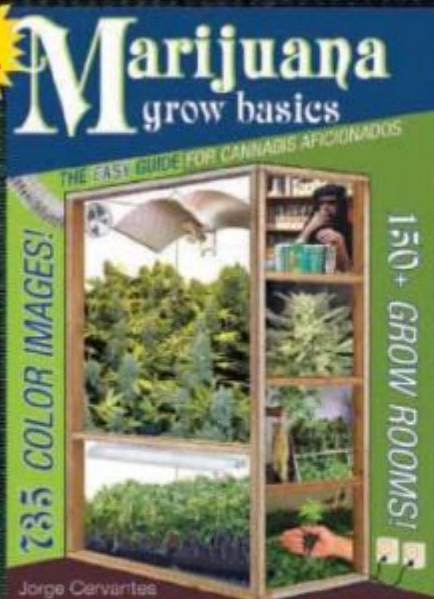




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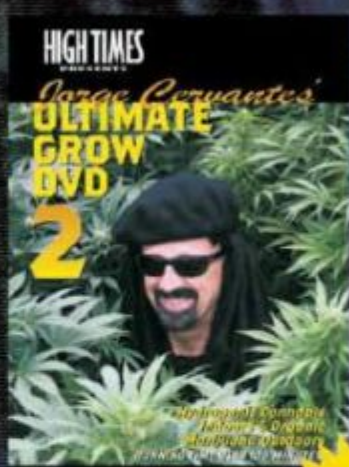
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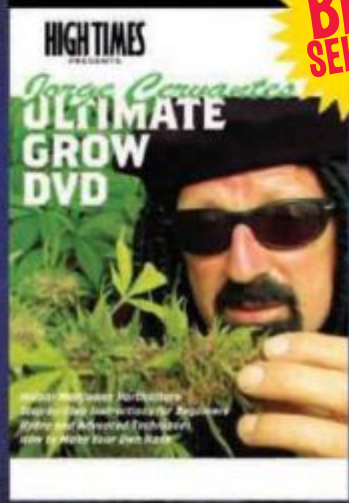
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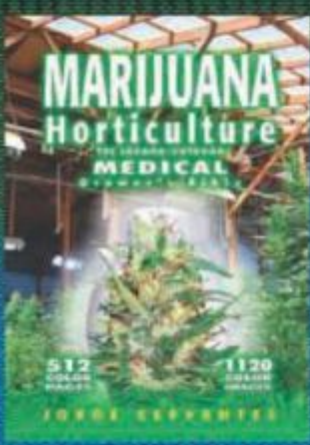


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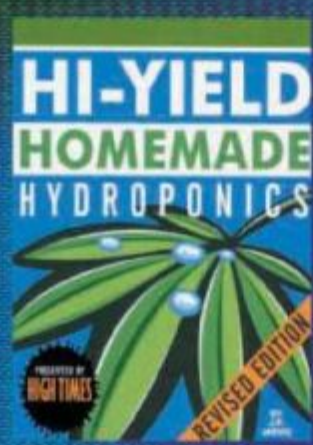


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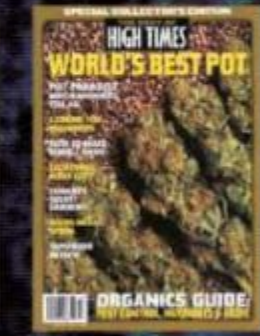
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2 **MIGHTY** .net

3 **HAPPY 3<sup>RD</sup> Anniversary APRIL**  
ROBOT ROB  
"You are my eternal beloved!"

4 **CHRIS and GREG'S ULTIMATE EARLY HOUR**

10 **Stoner forums**

11 **Wife Spanking**

18 **THE DRUNKARD'S PRAYER:**  
OUR BEER, WHICH COMETH IN BOTTLES, HALLOWED BE THY DRINK, THY WILL BE DRUNK, I WILL BE DRUNK, AT HOME AS IT IS IN THE TAVERN, GIVE US EACH DAY OUR DAILY BEVERAGE AND FORGIVE US OUR SPILLAGES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SPILL AGAINST US AND LEAD US NOT INTO INCARCERATION AND DELIVER US FROM HANGOVERS, FOR THINE IS THE VODKA, THE SHOTS, AND THE COCKTAILS FOREVER AND EVER BARMEN!"

27 PLEASE DO NOT THROW YOUR CIGARETTE BUTTS ON THE FLOOR 'CAUSE THE COCKROACHES ARE GETTING CANCER!

28 **JOHNNY REEFERSEED** and **THE HIGH ROLLERS STONER CLASSIC**  
"BROTHER CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?"

5 **BONG HITS**

12 **RETARD RIOT** .com

19 **Grunge high**

20 **FREE THE WEED**

21 **LOVE TENNESSEE BUT MISS THOSE CALI GROW LAWS**

29 I ONLY TOKE ON DAYS ENDING WITH "Y"

30 Jack and Jill went up the hill to check out their ganjo patch. Jill laid down and soon said "now" when Jack licked at her patch!!

6 **STONER**

14 **STONER ARMY**  
I WANT TO BE A MARIJUANA

22 **BOOGIE KUSH**  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

31 I'M A JOKER, I'M A SMOKER, I'M A MIDNIGHT TOKER!"

7 **APRIL**

15 **BUDZ**  
A CARTOON OF CHRONIC PROPOSITIONS  
YOUTUBE.COM/BUDZCARTOON

23 **CAPT. LLOYD**  
LOVES HUNTINGTON BEACH CALIFORNIA

32 ANY KANGA BAY OVER MY DOGMA

8 **Grateful Dead**

16 **AMERICANS AGAINST MARIJUANA PROHIBITION**  
AAMP@TOKE.COM  
THIS IS THE PLAN

25 THERE ONCE WAS A CLONE NAMED MISTY WHO GREW TO BE A 7-FOOT TREE, I PLUCKED HER AND ROLLIED HER AND SMOCKED HER AND TOKED HER AND ATE HER AND NOW I'M SO STONED-EYED I CAN BARELY SEE!  
**HERE'S DENNY!**

33 **R. CRUMB**  
TAMOUS HAPPY GARDEN-ART

9 **OZZY**

17 **HAWAII IS GANJA HEAVEN**

26 IF LIFE IS A WASTE OF TIME AND TIME IS A WASTE OF LIFE THEN GET WASTED ALL THE TIME AND HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!

34 IF FEDEX AND UPS MERGED, WOULD THEY CALL IT FED UP?

the **POT 40** compiled By John Holmstrom cartoons By **COSMO** NYC

OFFICIAL BALLOT

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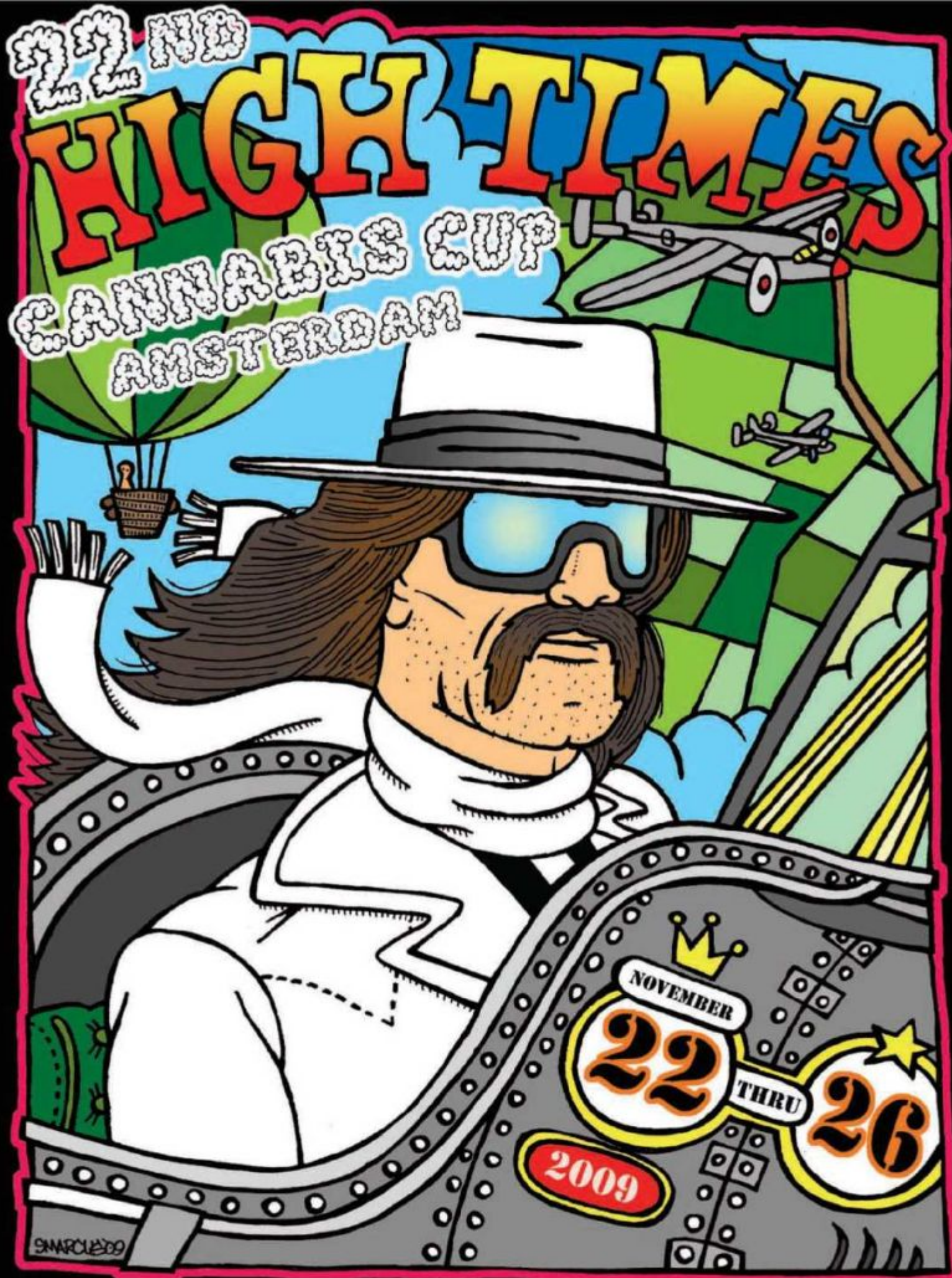
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35 **THANK YOU!** TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE BOUGHT HIGH TIMES MAGAZINE FOR THE LAST 35 YEARS AND ESPECIALLY TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE VOTED FOR THE POT 40 AND THE HEMP 100 OVER THE LAST 23 YEARS. AND... WE YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE -AND... WE LOVE YOU! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! SEND IN MORE VOTES ASAP!

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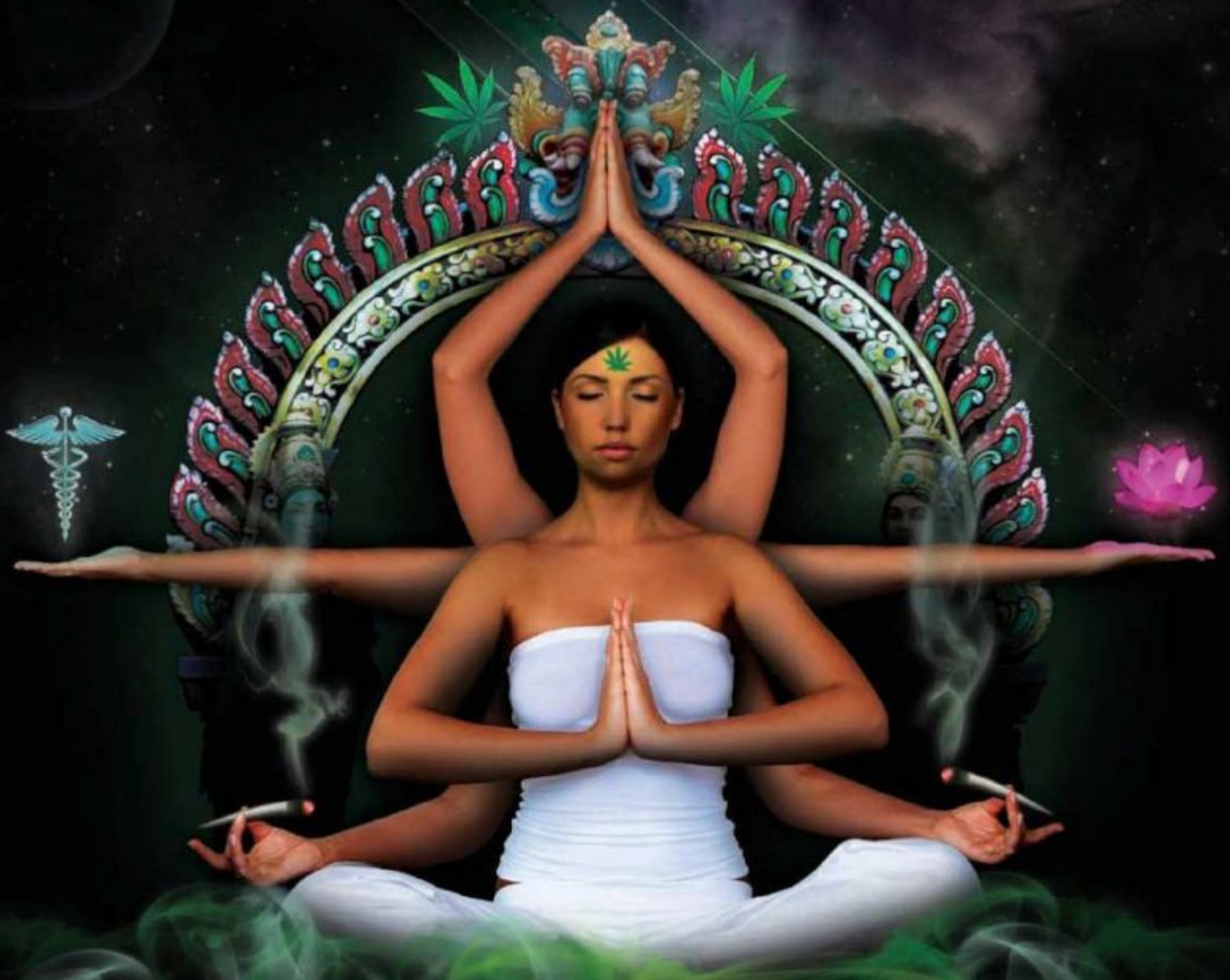
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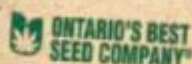
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