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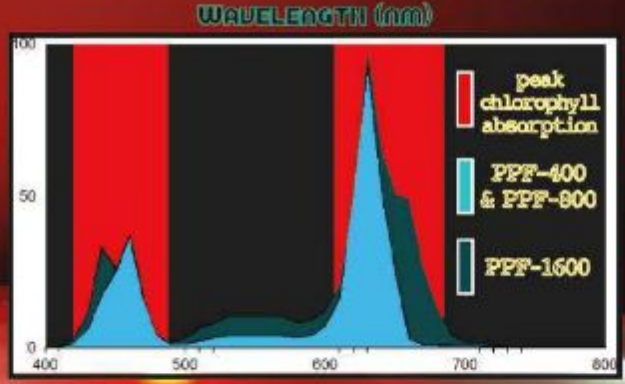


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# MILESTONE 420

Our 420 issues also represent the long, unfinished battle for legalization. Four leaders of the cannabis community weigh in on the significance of our historic celebration.

## KEITH STROUP

*Founder of NORML and a veteran cannabis activist for over 40 years.*

Reaching the milestone of 420 issues probably seemed impossible—or at least highly unlikely—when Tom Forçade founded HIGH TIMES in 1974. To publish a successful national magazine celebrating marijuana for 36 years in the middle of a Drug War is nothing short of miraculous.



NORML forged a lasting alliance with Forçade and HIGH TIMES from the very beginning. In fact, NORML and HIGH TIMES are the only two institutions of any consequence in this country that champion the responsible use of marijuana. When we were in the process of putting NORML together, I was advised by some (including former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark) that we would have no credibility with elected officials, the public or the national media unless we assumed an official policy of discouraging marijuana use—even as we lobbied for legalization. We were warned that it was fine to call for an end to the practice of treating marijuana smokers as criminals, but that our arguments in support of this should never be seen as pro-marijuana advocacy. Instead, we were advised to focus on arguments like conserving law-enforcement resources, using scarce jail and prison space for serious offenders, and finding a more compassionate way to discourage the use of marijuana—one that would not destroy a person's life or career for smoking a marijuana cigarette.

The advice we received from Clark and others may have been the best positioning for NORML at the time—had we been totally honest from the outset, we would have been treated as a fringe group, not to be taken seriously. So, instead, we were officially anti-jail and anti-discrimination, not pro-pot. We supported the more effective and efficient use of our law-enforcement and prosecutorial resources. The downside was that we were being less than honest. As a result, we ignored our most convincing and powerful argument: that pot is essentially harmless, and that there is nothing wrong with smoking it.

I can say with some pride that, within a few years, NORML adopted a far more honest posi-

tion, defining the organization as a marijuana smokers' lobby—a consumer lobby. We urged smokers to come out of the closet; otherwise, we would remain essentially invisible to our elected officials, as well as our friends, neighbors and co-workers.

By early 1977, in a *Playboy* magazine interview, I talked openly about my personal use and made it clear that NORML was indeed a pro-pot lobby. We had achieved a certain level of acceptance by then, having decriminalized marijuana smoking in 11 states. I decided there was more to be gained by being honest than by remaining politically "correct." It is a decision that I have never regretted.

By the mid-'90s, the NORML board of directors drafted and publicly issued a document entitled "Principles of Responsible Cannabis Use," defining for the first time what conduct we felt was acceptable, and what was not.

When one considers the incredibly harsh and misleading propaganda promoted by our government—that marijuana leads to harder drugs, and that marijuana smokers are not only lazy and shiftless, but an actual danger to society, much of which was swallowed hook, line and sinker by older Americans—it took real courage for HIGH TIMES to remain an honest pro-marijuana advocate.

HIGH TIMES was never concerned with being politically correct. Its readers were already marijuana smokers, and the primary purpose of the magazine was to celebrate the smoking culture. It remained consistently pro-pot, even during the harrowing political swing to the right of the '80s and early '90s, when a renewed crackdown on marijuana was mounted by the nation's Drug Warriors. The government even attempted to shut the magazine down by bringing criminal charges against its advertisers—those who sold paraphernalia and indoor growing equipment. Many magazine distributors stopped carrying HIGH TIMES for fear that they too might be harassed or arrested. It is a testament to the management and staff of HIGH TIMES that they managed to adjust to lower circulation and vastly lower advertising for several years and somehow stayed in business.

By the mid-'90s, the worst of the anti-marijuana backlash had passed. Once again, the

magazine competed for advertisers and readers. In the past year, HT has debuted HIGH TIMES MEDICAL MARIJUANA NEWS AND REVIEWS, a West Coast-based publication focused entirely on the medicinal use of cannabis. HT's persistence, its reliance on the protection of the First Amendment, and its unwillingness to compromise its message to suit the authorities has borne fruit. Today, smokers look to places like HIGH TIMES and NORML—not the government—for reliable information on cannabis, including its medicinal use.

NORML and HIGH TIMES have consistently advanced the right of individuals to grow their own marijuana, regardless of what version of decriminalization or legalization a state may adopt. In this emerging industry, we place a high priority on the importance of personal cultivation in order to keep the government honest should it try to sell poor-quality marijuana, overcharge, or make it otherwise difficult or inconvenient for consumers to obtain pot. Keeping the option open for consumers to buy high-quality seeds or starter plants to cultivate their own marijuana keeps the market responsive to our needs. Otherwise, the consumer has little leverage against those who are primarily interested in getting rich.

In California, many successful growers and distributors have enriched themselves on the backs of patients, charging outrageous prices—as much as \$600 to \$800 an ounce. These prices are simply not justifiable. Underground growers and sellers of marijuana have helped to drive the price of marijuana to its current levels because of the so-called "prohibition tax"—that is, those who risk their freedom and fortunes to provide us with marijuana cite the dangers of their profession to justify charging exorbitant prices.

But those conditions no longer apply in California, Colorado and a handful of other states. If growers and sellers adhere to state regulations, they need not fear or hide. Yet they continue to charge prohibition-style prices, even as studies show the actual cost of growing marijuana is approximately \$25 dollars per ounce. That level of mark-up—especially for seriously ill patients—is unconscionable and must be confronted.

In California, some growers and sellers oppose the efforts to fully legalize, regulate and tax marijuana, fearing that legalization will result in lower prices and profits, as well as motivate large corporate growers and distributors to enter the marketplace. But these concerns pale in comparison to the damage done by the arrest



of so many otherwise law-abiding citizens.

At NORML, we have always predicted a likely split between the industry and consumers. However, this is a sign of the political progress that we have made over the years. This industry, which for decades was thought to be an evil force bent on corrupting our children, can now participate in policy debates. We need to evaluate our industry just like any other, recognizing that its primary objective is making money, not achieving social justice.

NORML has intentionally set its course in order to represent the interests of marijuana smokers. It has been a pleasure to stand side by side with HIGH TIMES as the standard-bearer for responsible marijuana smokers. We look forward, in the near future, to seeing our work completed—on the day when marijuana is legal and available to all adults who wish to use it.

## ETHAN A. NADELMANN

*Founder and executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance.*

Proposition 215, the California medical-marijuana ballot initiative that triumphed in 1996, was a breakthrough both for me and the drug-policy reform movement. My role was to raise the roughly \$2 million required to get the initiative on the ballot and run the campaign—and to ensure that the campaign would be victorious. Neither I nor anyone else had ever done anything like this before. It proved a dynamic learning experience.



Dennis Peron and other local activists had created the opportunity by drafting the initiative. I then persuaded George Soros, Peter Lewis and George Zimmer to partner in providing the major funding. Next, I recruited Bill Zimmerman, a professional campaign manager with a personal passion for the issue, to run the campaign. Absent any one of them, Prop. 215 would never have made the ballot or won.

Our victory demonstrated for the first time that the nascent drug-policy reform movement could win one in the big leagues of American politics—and it effectively launched the second wave of marijuana-reform activism in the United States.

The next challenge was legalizing medical marijuana outside California. We polled in over a dozen states and identified six where we thought a medical-marijuana initiative was winnable: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Nevada and Maine. Soros and Lewis agreed to partner again, this time in tandem with John Sperling, who wanted their support for his efforts in Arizona and elsewhere to roll back the Drug War by substituting drug treatment for incarceration.

With each one contributing over \$2.5 million dollars and Bill Zimmerman managing the national effort, we won all six medical-mari-

juana initiatives between 1998 and 2000—and also defeated two hostile legislative efforts: one in Oregon, where the state legislature voted to reverse the 1973 marijuana-decriminalization law; and the other in Arizona, where legislators tried to undermine Prop. 200, the initiative mandating treatment instead of incarceration that we'd won in 1996.

I'll always feel proud of the role I played in those victories—and in subsequent victories for marijuana and other drug-law reform efforts, both at the ballot box and in state legislatures and Congress. And I am always conscious of the fact that what made these victories possible was the pioneering advocacy efforts of others: Bob Randall, Keith Stroup, Lester Grinspoon, Michael Aldrich, Kevin Zeese, Arnold Trebach, Rufus King, Alfred Lindesmith and so many more—including the founder, publishers and editors of HIGH TIMES, who started fighting the good fight long before I did.

I guess what distinguishes me from some other leaders in the marijuana-law reform effort is my commitment to ending not just marijuana prohibition, but also the broader War on Drugs. It's not that I believe all drugs should be treated the same. Rather, our cause is stronger, better and more just when marijuana-reform activists embrace the broader drug-policy reform movement—and when those who pursue drug-law reform because of a commitment to racial justice, public health or human rights accept the centrality of marijuana-law reform to the greater struggle.

To HIGH TIMES: *Mazel tov* on your 420th issue!

## DENNIS PERON

*Activist, entrepreneur and medical-marijuana visionary, as well as a crucial figure in the passage of California's Prop. 215.*

What a long, strange trip it's been! From the very first issue of HIGH TIMES (concealed in a brown paper wrap), I witnessed the beginning of a magazine dedicated to my first love—marijuana—and the chronicling of our movement to free the weed and change the laws. I had always thought it would be legal by now. I hadn't counted on Tricky Dicky Nixon's last stand: the scheduling of marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act. I underestimated how much reefer madness was to come—and come it did, in wave after wave of hysterical, screaming madness.

HIGH TIMES started out just about the time I first began selling marijuana. Actually, I started back in 1970. Returning from Vietnam and entering school, I supplemented my GI Bill by selling a couple ounces a week. (They were called "lids" then.)

I never dreamed it would turn into a career;



I was planning to be a psychiatrist. Instead, I was sidetracked by our battles—battles where I would lose lovers, friends and, sadly, the country I love.

And it nearly cost me my life. I've been shot and jailed over a dozen times. That's what made the Prop. 215 victory in 1996 so sweet. We kicked their collective ass, and the world will never be the same.

## VIVIAN MCPEAK

*Executive director of the Seattle Hempfest and founder of the Seattle Peace Heathens Community Action Group.*



When Tom Forçade rolled out the first issue of HIGH TIMES in 1974, I was a 16-year-old living in Lake Tahoe, CA. I was no different than most teenagers in the '70s: I was already a budding cannabis enthusiast, having taken my first toke of the herbaceous substance at a Grand Funk Railroad concert a few years before.

Naturally, I was very influenced by HIGH TIMES, and as I grew and my beliefs evolved, HIGH TIMES grew too. Originally featuring an array of illicit substances, in later years HIGH TIMES narrowed its focus to more natural substances such as cannabis, peyote and mushrooms. The addition of Steve Hager in the 1980s introduced a much more balanced and even reverent approach to cannabis journalism, one that focused more on activism and reform.

I believe this move has had a very positive impact on the world's cannabis community. In the years that followed, much tribal wisdom and cultural knowledge has been shared in the pages of HIGH TIMES. Whether it's revealing the true origins of 420 or sharing the latest, safest, nontoxic methods of cultivation, HIGH TIMES has informed, entertained and enlightened its readers for hundreds of issues over four decades. And upon the occasion of its 420th issue, America appears poised for a gigantic shift in policy. I hope that HIGH TIMES will continue to promote harm reduction and responsible use with its campy mix of stoner humor, investigative journalism and glossy pot-plant photos. I would not be the same person I am today had I not been a lifelong reader and fan of the world's first drug-culture magazine.

I can think of at least 420 reasons for any psychoactive saddle tramp to read and support this greatly influential and trailblazing publication. As we forge ahead in our quest to liberate the world's most amazing plant, I have no doubt that HIGH TIMES will play its part in energizing our vibrant, active cannabis culture worldwide. I hope the next 420 issues are just as great! 🌿





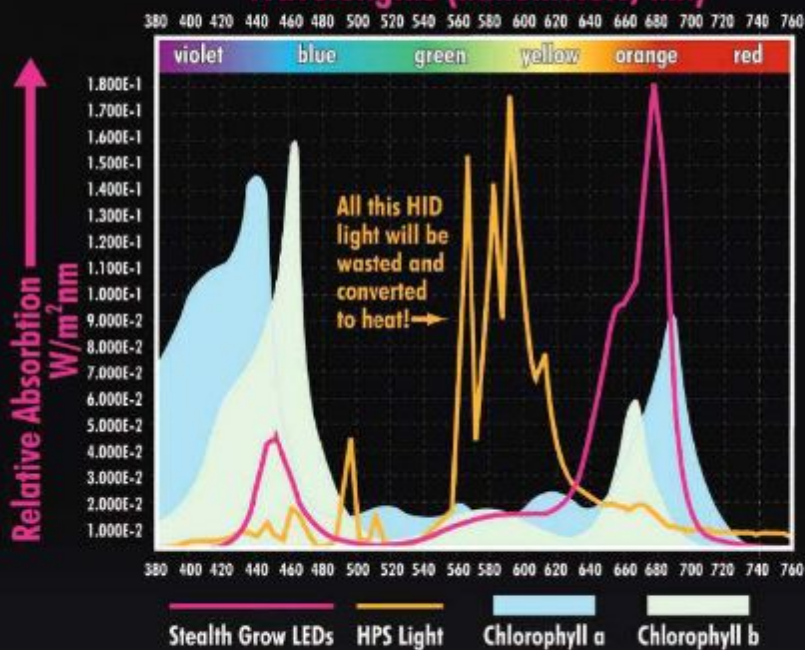
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# High Operations

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH MELISSA ETHERIDGE

BY DAN SKYE

Melissa Etheridge is at the tail end of her “Fearless Love” tour. Her suite at the Palms in Las Vegas overlooks the sprawling desert suburbs. Beyond that: a barren, mountainous emptiness. She scans the stark contrast and laughs: “Ya know, I’m all about finding balance, but it looks like we missed the boat here.”

Etheridge is funny and irreverent as she pokes fun at her image as an activist. As one of the world’s top women rockers—whose music and popularity crosses over several audiences—she acknowledges the power of her celebrity but praises the efforts of “real workers” first. She helps out when she can and tries to “walk the walk,” speaking out boldly for what she believes in.

Basically, Etheridge believes that we can do better. “We have grown up,” she says, “we are gaining wisdom. Let’s use it!”

**A music critic once wrote that Frank Sinatra sang with extraordinary depth of feeling and emotion considering he was a thug at heart. How essential is it for singers to sing from the heart?**

Well, I think that’s what resonates with people. As for Frank Sinatra, I think, yeah, maybe he was a thug at heart, but you still go through pain. He knew how to touch on that.

I know what it’s like to be a performer and have your own inner-heart issues. To put it out into music is really powerful. It can also kill you. When I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I realized what I could do: I needed to heal my heart more. There is a reason I got cancer. I am sort of a believer in the spiritual aspect of disease.

**So you believe cancer enhanced your spirituality?**

Definitely. There comes a point where you sort of realize there is more going on here. For a long time, I had been thinking spiritually, and when I got cancer, it slowed me down. It completely stopped my other life—my success. I had to stop and be completely still.

I was on chemotherapy, and it was horrible.

But the pain was alleviated by cannabis. It was awesome ... truly. I was able to sit there and really see that health is just balance. Cannabis helps balance. If we had reputable tests done on stress and cannabis and alleviation of pain, doctors would prescribe it all the time—and they should.

**Patients often don’t reach that spiritual plane. It remains a question of “Why me?”**

Sometimes that’s what it’s about, too. I think cancer is not a “something” out there that finds you; it’s the body’s way of telling you something is wrong—you’re too acidic, your *yin* is too much compared to your *yang*. It’s the whole thing. It goes back to that which is simple—and we complicate it.

**Do you have some conception of what caused your cancer?**

It depends how you’re looking at it. Is it something that went wrong with my physical body? Well, you can listen to the doctors. Every doctor I talked to said that cancer starts when cells go bad. I started thinking, “Why do cells go bad?” None of them

were telling me why—I had to do my own research into that.

There were extensive studies done by a doctor in the ‘20s and ‘30s, who showed that cells go bad when they are too acidic, when our pH balance is off. Our pH balance comes from vegetables, fruits, whole grains and meditation. So you really have to change your lifestyle to do that.

**Can you describe the experience of chemotherapy?**

They found a cocktail of poison that will kill every dividing cell in your body. They found these other shots that they can give you to keep the white and red blood cells up. It is drug warfare in your body.

It is *crazy*. They can take you just to the point of death, and then they let you come back up. Then they do it again. You do it five, 10 times. It’s pretty insane—it’s like what bloodletting used to be. I think it is super-barbaric.

I know there are some cases where there is a tumor or something and chemo has had an effect, and that’s great—but this is a *habit*. Instead of looking at changing lifestyle, diet and such, they use chemo so the cancer doesn’t come back.

There are different kinds. I used AC-Taxol chemotherapy. AC just wrecks your gastrointestinal system; nothing tastes good. Your taste buds are shot, so you don’t want to eat. Pot gives you the appetite. It relieves the nausea so you can eat and have the strength to go through it.

It doesn’t make sense to me. That’s why I think our medical system is in crisis. We work ourselves to death here in America so that, when we are facing death, we’re able to pay for it. What are we *doing*?

All we need to do is rethink this. We are good thinkers.

Plant medicines have been around for thou-





**'Everything has rhythm. Life has rhythm. Everything has a vibration. I hear things; my life has a soundtrack. Our whole world is music.'**

Etheridge calls herself a "sativa girl."

sands of years—forever. This plant, this weed that grows naturally, has been present since the beginning of recorded history. There are chemical drugs that humans have made, but they cause constipation and other side effects. And you may have to take four more additional medicines to adjust to the one. But you also have something that you can eat or inhale, and it will make you feel good.

**Did your music help you?**

When it was at its worst, just after chemo, there would be about four or five days where any light or sound would be so painful, I didn't want to be touched. If I could lay still and find that center, I would feel no pain. So music—no. Sometimes, two days or a day before the next round of chemo, I'd start feeling better and maybe could listen to music. I would enjoy those times when I could.

**How did your kids react to your illness?**

Well, they were six and eight, and I didn't want them to think I was dying, because I wasn't. I just told them that the treatment was going to be really hard and I was going to have to lie down a lot. I tried not to get too dramatic.

**You're going to be 50. According to the median age for females in America, your life is two-thirds over. So what drives you?**

That's funny—I don't think my life is two-thirds gone. I actually feel it has just begun. It's not about the age of my body; it's about what I am creating. That's what is so exciting now. I am creating a level—stress-free and fearless. It's fun. I totally love myself.

**Many describe you as an activist. Have you always felt a responsibility toward social causes?**

I think that people project that on me. I just say "yes" and show up to a couple of things. People perceive—because I stand up and say things and

speak openly about my breast cancer and going bald—that I am out there fighting the fight. Also, because I did a song about the need to wake up.

Okay, I do live my life environmentally. I drive a car which uses biofuel because I want to be that way and see that change in the world. And every now and again, I will show up for a biofuel event, because I do believe that we need to get off petroleum. But there are people who are doing a lot of hard work 24/7, every day. We can all be crusaders by speaking truthfully. That's the biggest work that I do.

**Last year, 141 scientists signed a letter which stated there is no reason to impose public policy because there is no convincing evidence to prove global warming. How do you respond to that?**

I think whenever any conflict comes up, whatever it is, we all benefit if we can pull out of the conflict and look further. Anytime we divide ourselves—when environmentalists say it's the end of the world, and these people say that we're far from it—we can try and find a middle.

I think it's kind of obvious that we can't go on making plastic. There are things we need to change environmentally. As for global warming, I don't think we're going to burn to a crisp in a few years, but I am not an alarmist. We need to get off of oil—not just because it is hurting our earth, but because it is hurting our cultures.

**Do you see any parallels with the issue of marijuana?**

It's all the same thing—but we are growing up. We grew up in a very polarized society: good and bad, black and white, straight and gay. My parents grew up in a seriously racist society with serious divisions. But I think that we are reaching the age of wisdom. We've seen this a few times where we say, "Let's think clearly about this." I think we are finally at that place with marijuana. We all know it's not hurting anybody. It has been part of the culture for years—America has always had a pot culture.

**You use marijuana medically—probably recreationally as well, which is the same thing when you get down to it ....**

There you are—excellent! Yes, that's it! Who's to say that at the end of the evening, after my day is done, that it isn't excellent *medicine* to relax with? It's great medicine! You get a good night's sleep, and thank you very much.

**Are there certain strains that you favor?**

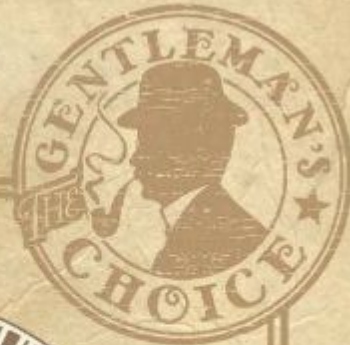
I'm very much a *sativa* girl; the *indicas* just put me to sleep. I mean, if I'm having trouble sleeping, then, medicinally, I would use an *indica*. But a *sativa* allows me to function and still keeps my stress level lower, and that keeps my acid reflux lower.

**Mathematicians say their thought processes are characterized by equations. Musicians say they think musically. Do you?**

Everything has rhythm. *Life* has rhythm. Everything has a vibration. I hear things; my life has a soundtrack. Our whole world is music. It's why music has never died. We need it in our lives.



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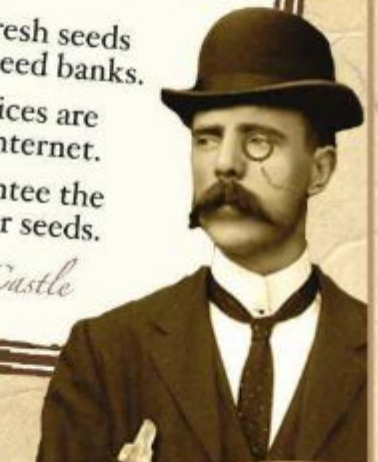
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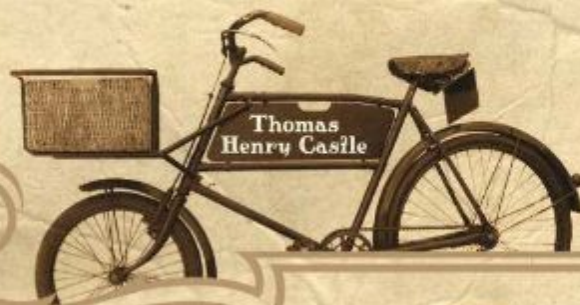
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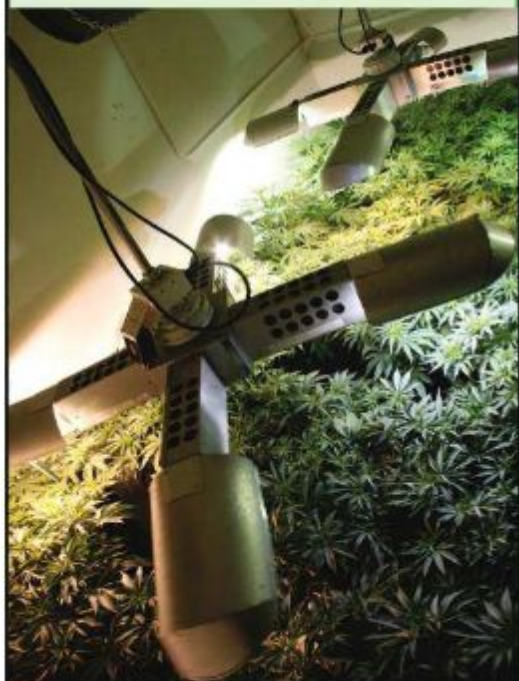


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## the high times interview



Winning the Oscar for Best Original Song,  
"I Need to Wake Up," from *An Inconvenient Truth*.

People often comment on your raw, edgy rock voice. How does a singer find their voice?

I started singing country music first. I enjoyed rock'n'roll music, but the first band I was able to be in played country music. I have these recordings of me when I was about 14, and it wasn't really so different. I don't know anything you can do to get a specific voice.

Before you came out publicly as a gay woman, you said you worried about how you would be perceived.

Yeah, it was fear of not knowing, because there really wasn't anyone that I could look to and see what it might be like. It was difficult—not knowing what was going to happen, but knowing that I couldn't live without being out.

Any misgivings about that?

At this point, it is "no."

You had a lot of success before you came out, but now your personal life is covered by TMZ. What's that like?

It sucks. It's horrible. You really can't win that game—you are damned if you do and damned if you don't. No one knows the truth, no one knows what's going on—it is so *personal*. There is no way I could sit down with anybody and talk about that stuff. People want to make judgments: "This person is good; this one is bad." You have to know it's just mythology.

Ken Mehlman recently came out of the closet. He served in the Bush administration and actually opposed gay rights. Any reaction?

Part of me is like, "Yay, good for you!" Then there's "Motherfucker, go back in the closet!" Every time someone pushes the hardest and hates the most—well, it turns out you are what you fear. They hate themselves.

Where do you feel the most pressure in your life?

All of it I cause for myself. I believe that anything

**'There is a wisdom in the thousands of years of history and mythology. The scientific paradigm has reached the point of spirit.'**

that is out there, I am creating. So I can't blame anybody but me. And I would probably say that the place I'm learning from most right now is my own personal and emotional relationships, whether it's those with my children or with grownups. It's about finding my way—and how much power I give other people.

What is the biggest misconception people have about you?

I don't know ... I'm taller than I am? [Laughs] People are going to think what they think.

Has anything in the media gotten a rise out of you lately?

Media is just junk food. Any news that I need to hear usually finds its way to me. But all that noise—it's *just* noise.

Right now, people are very fearful of the economy, and social issues aren't their foremost concern. Do you remain optimistic?

Yes. Fear has been a societal tool: Keeping us in fear of our jobs and our money keeps us separated. But I am very optimistic that millions of people are starting to see that communities work. When we all work together, it's better for all of us.

We are going through the chaos. Chaos is necessary for change—and we are going through huge change right now. We are going to look back, and we will see that we are all older now. We'll remember the turn of the century and how our whole society crumbled because that paradigm, the capitalist paradigm that has taken over the world, doesn't work.

Then we realized that it comes from ourselves. There is spirituality. There is a connect-edness. There is a wisdom in the thousands of years of history and mythology. The scientific paradigm has reached the point of the spirit. So I am very optimistic. I will sit here and share a bud with you and talk about it for hours. I also incorporate it into my show—emotion and hope, intentional creation—but very subtly. Some of the audience doesn't understand what I'm talking about. But I meet people all the time and they're like: "Something is happening!"

We are all starting to vibrate. That's why music is important—it's all vibrations. I believe we are beginning to vibrate on a higher level. We are starting to comprehend. ✨

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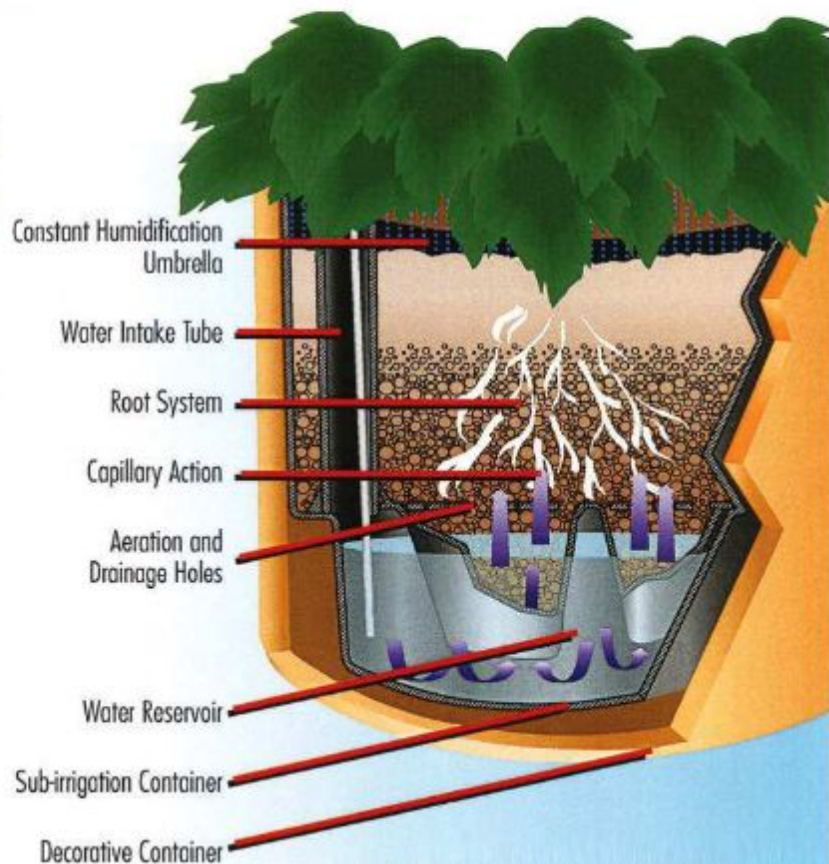


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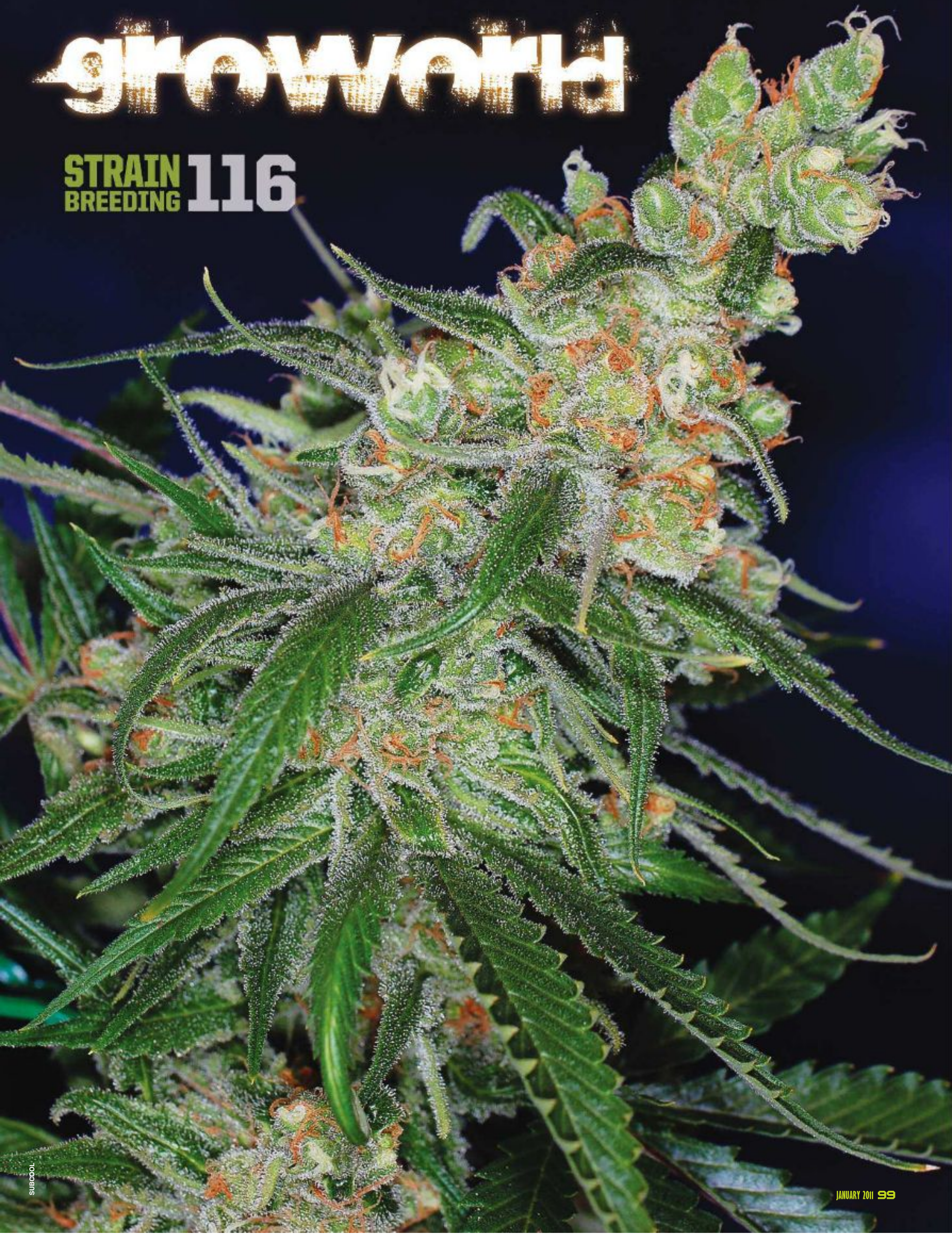
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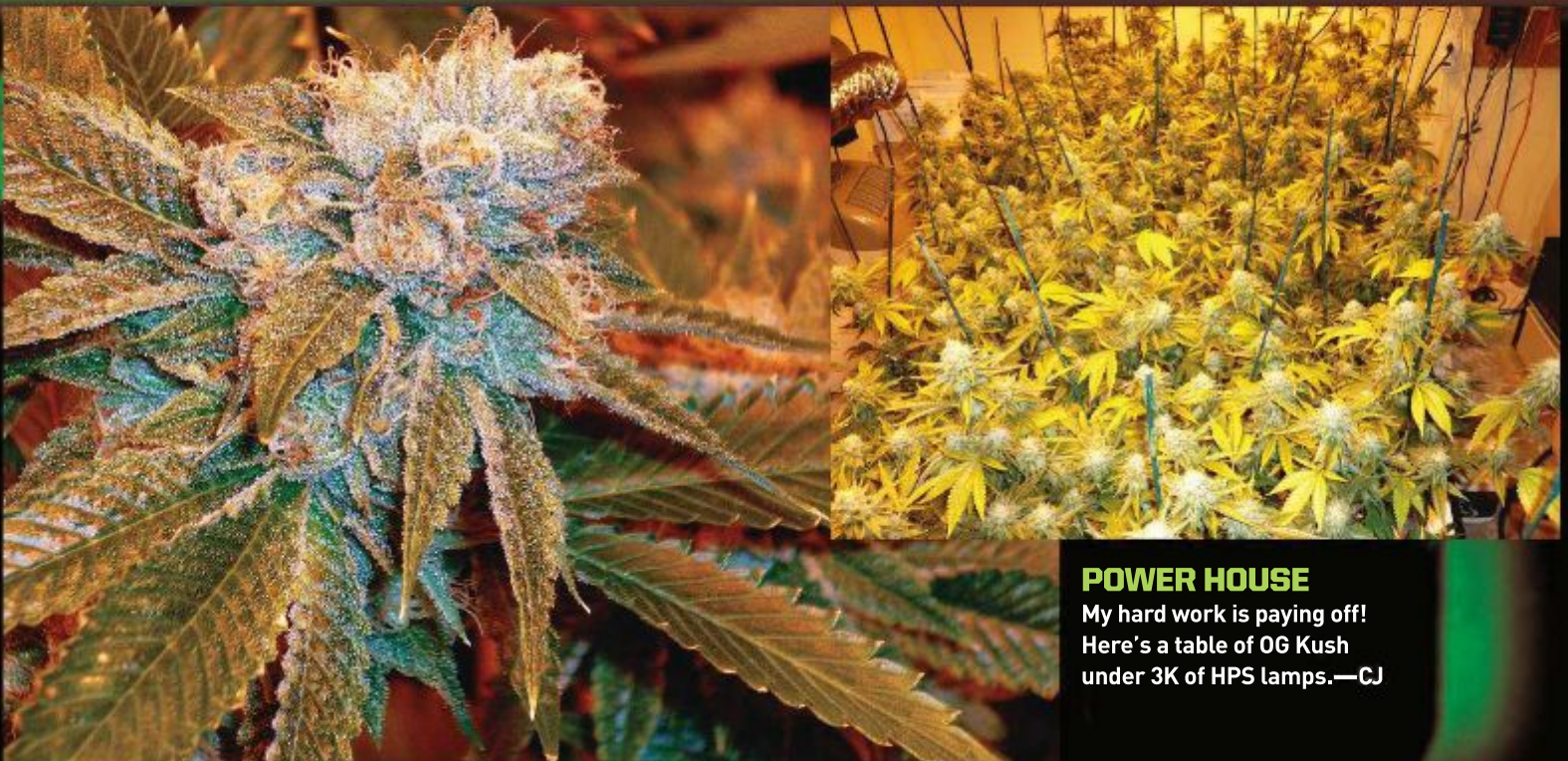






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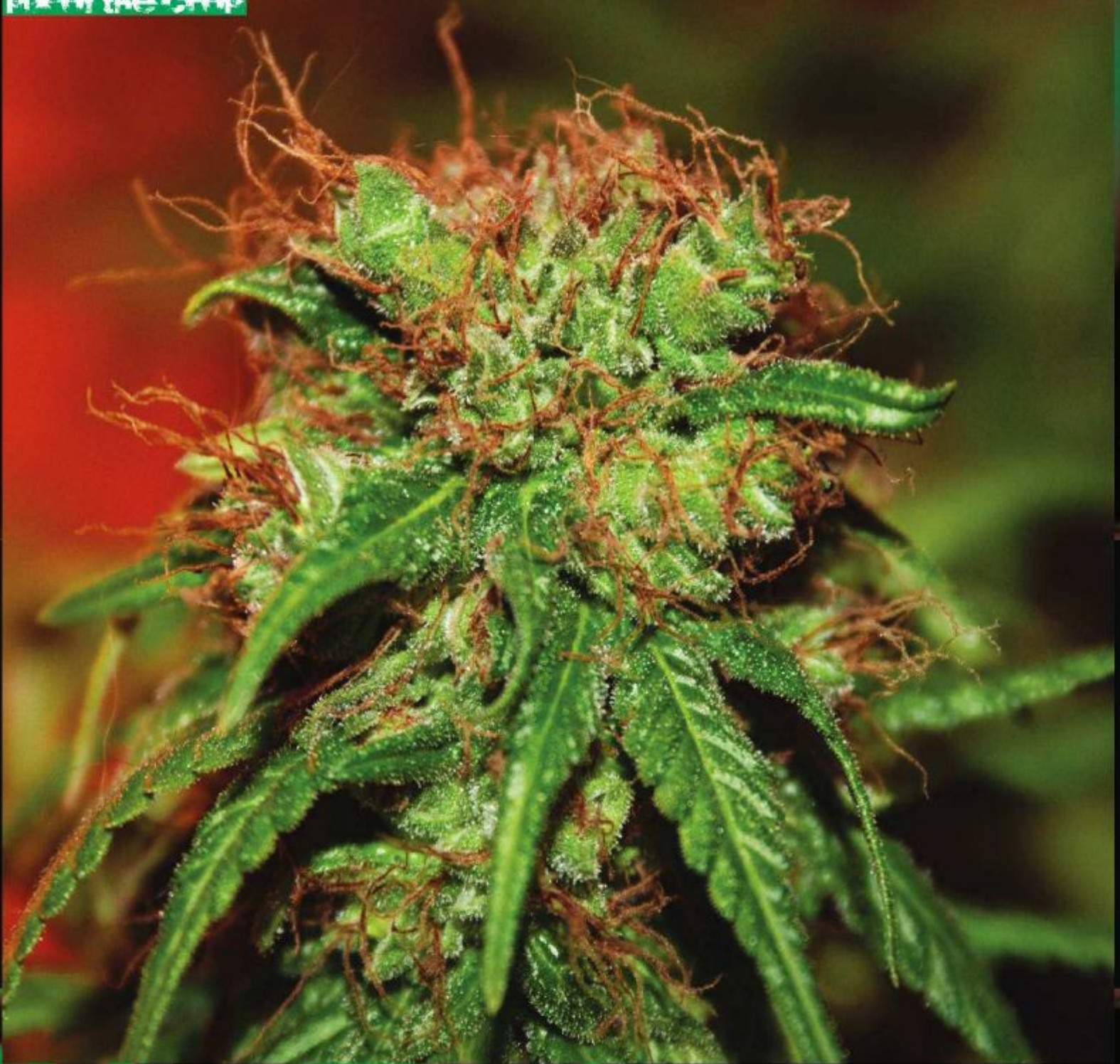
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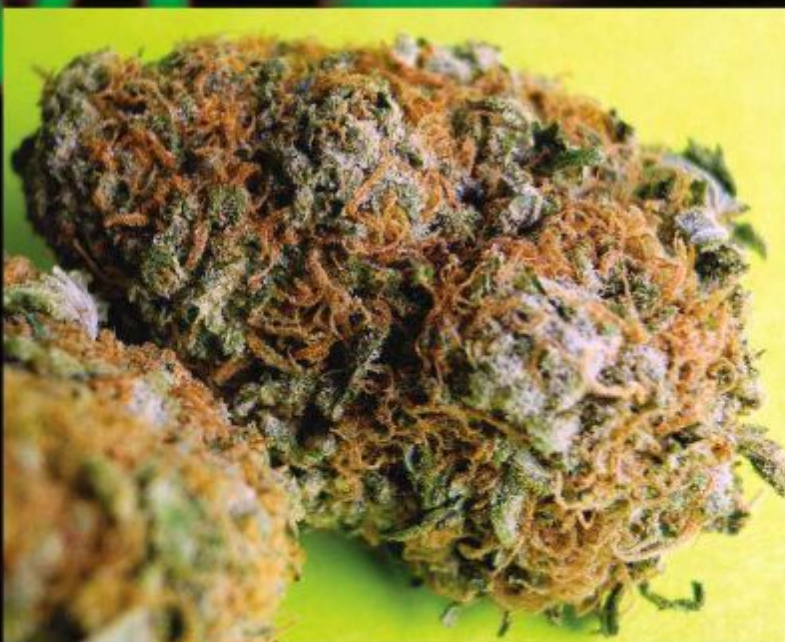
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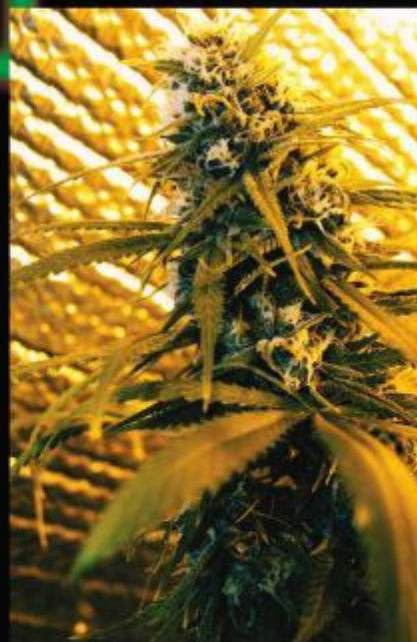
**AK STILL OK (above)**

Hey HT, check out this budding explosion of red and green. —No Name



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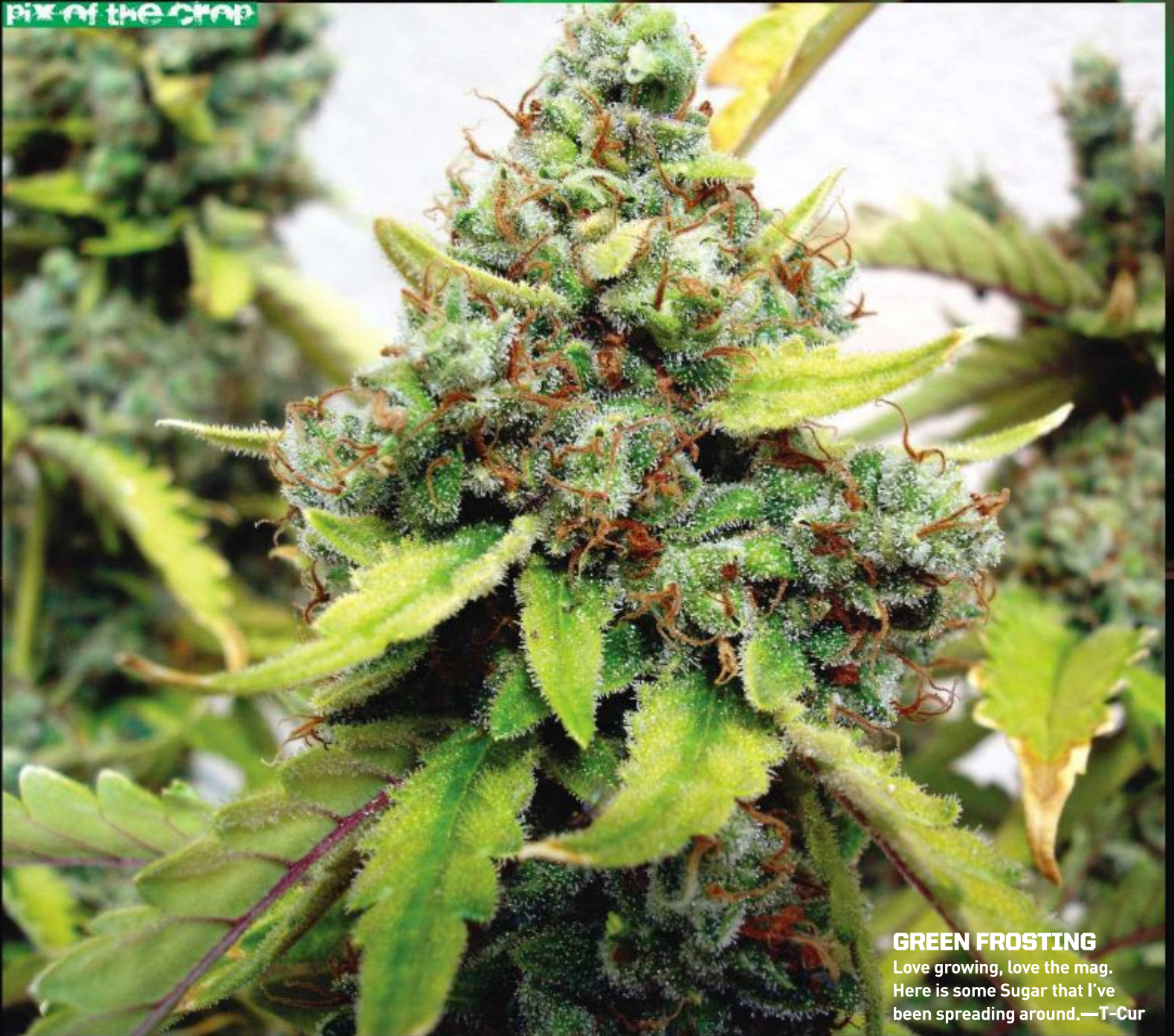
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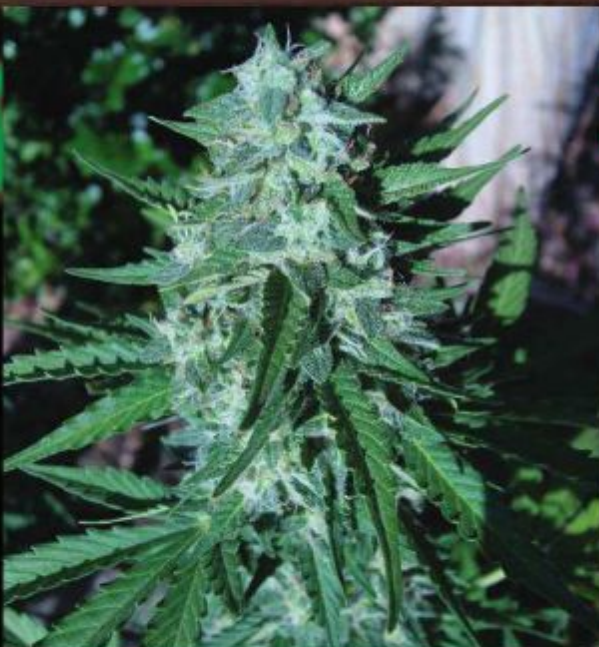
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**BLUE DREAM (left)**

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**YABBA GRABBA DOOBIE**

Here's a pic of my dog. He's a big fan of HIGH TIMES and Scooby Snacks!—Alphonse

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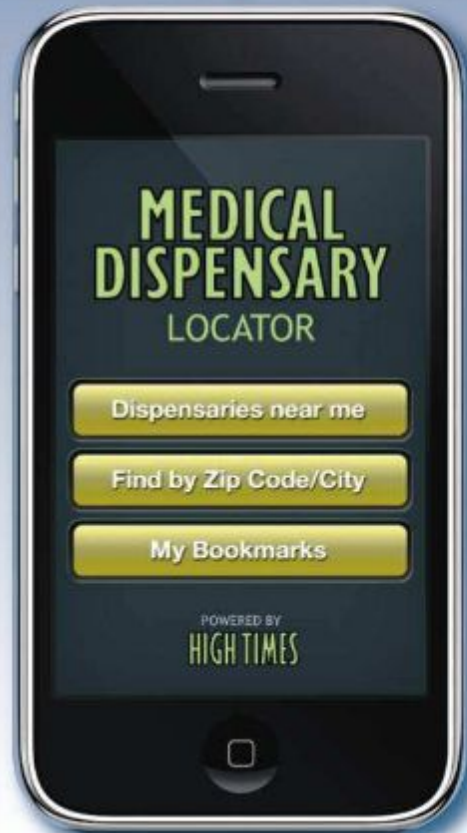
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# AMPLIFYING THE MOVEMENT

**SSDP and musicians team up to make a difference. By Jonathan Perri**

In early 2009, Students for Sensible Drug Policy launched the AMPLIFY Project, which stands for Artists Making Political Leadership Inspirational For Youth. We realized that with nearly 150 chapters on college campuses across the country, SSDP was poised to create a mutually beneficial relationship with bands that tour nationally and support our work to bring sensible reform to our nation's drug policies.



SSDP rocks out.

The project works like this: When a band on tour comes through a city like San Francisco, they'll send out promotional materials to our chapters at San Francisco State University and UC Berkeley, who will promote the show on their campuses and on social-media sites like Facebook. In exchange, the band secures a table at their show where SSDP chapter members can collect email addresses and petition signatures, hand out information, register voters and talk with concertgoers about SSDP.

For artists, the relationship is a no-brainer—it's like having 150 street teams already formed and active in the cities they're playing. SSDP chapters are strong promoters who already have plenty of experience organizing and promoting their own events on campus. Most importantly, AMPLIFY allows artists to support a just cause. The artists put a link to SSDP's website somewhere on their own websites, announce their partnership with SSDP in an email blast to fans, promote the organization on their Facebook pages, and donate signed posters or

CDs that we can raffle off to raise money and build our email list.

Bands that join the project are called AMPLIFYers. John Brown's Body, Slightly Stoopid, Lotus and Roots of Creation are a few of the artists that have really gone above and beyond to support SSDP. John Brown's Body, for example, have put

our logo on thousands of posters and handbills for their tours, gaining us fantastic exposure.

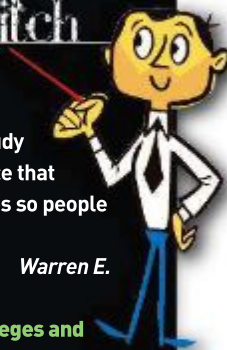
The band's drummer, Tommy Bennedit, has found the project to be uplifting: "Everyone we've met through SSDP has been so knowledgeable and passionate about their activism, and that's inspiring for us. It's right in the name: 'Sensible.' There just seems to be no common sense in some of our current drug policies."

AMPLIFY has really taken off over the past year, with SSDP chapters participating in over 100 concerts. We also have a guide to help students make the most out of the project. Activism with SSDP is hard work, and AMPLIFY provides a way to have fun while changing the world and listening to great live music.

The project is currently being coordinated by Chris Wallis, an alum of the SSDP chapter at Kent State University in Ohio. Artists interested in joining AMPLIFY should email Chris at [amplify@ssdp.org](mailto:amplify@ssdp.org). ✨

*Jonathan Perri is the associate director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy.*

## ask dr. mitch



Dr. Mitch, I keep hearing there's a study about this and a study about that. Is there a place that collects marijuana studies so people can read them?

Warren E.

Hi Warren, Many local libraries, colleges and universities have access to Medline and PsycInfo, the two big repositories of research. Medscape.com will let you join for free and give you access to the abstracts of most of these as well. NORML.org has great summaries of all the important stuff, too.

Do edibles lead to stomach ulcers?

Hugh Beaumont

Hi Hugh, Nope! The gastric system has tons of cannabinoid receptors, but stimulating them tends to protect the stomach from ulcers, not create them. Sounds like more anti-cannabis propaganda to me.

I live in Gautier, MS. Didn't Gautier smoke the chronic?

Ann E.

Hi Ann, Théophile Gautier was a French poet and storyteller in the 1800s. (He even wrote a ballet.) He hung out with Alexandre Dumas, the author of *The Three Musketeers*, and other prominent members of the Hashish Club. But these guys never smoked; instead, they ate hash in tasty desserts. From what I learned during my internship in Jackson, MS, however, your town is named after a local family who wasn't connected to this famous artist.

A local teacher claims that marijuana users are less likely to finish high school and go to college. True?

Ed Thorndike

Hi Ed, This one's true: Research in Australia suggests that folks who use pot before the age of 15 are markedly less likely to finish high school and get a college degree than those who wait until after age 18. The researchers controlled for all the obvious factors, like how much money a student's family has. I don't think that marijuana actually causes people to drop out of school. Still, those who wait until they're adults to use cannabis often get more education.

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).

COURTESY OF SSDP

## free-lom fighter

### SHOWING SOME INITIATIVE

Oregon's Anthony Johnson authors a medical-marijuana ballot initiative.

This month's Freedom Fighter, Anthony Johnson of Oregon, is the perfect role model for college students to emulate if they wish to turn a passion for cannabis and a dedication to civil liberties into meaningful change. Johnson got his start in political activism with the University of Missouri NORML chapter, and later helped found the university's SSDP chapter. Johnson also became president of his law school's ACLU chapter and championed the case of a man later spared from death row.

In 2003, Johnson (along with NORML board member Dan Viets) authored a municipal ballot measure to decriminalize and medicalize marijuana, which ended up losing but still garnered 43 percent of the vote. Undeterred, in 2004 Johnson split the effort into two separate measures. The decriminalization measure eventually passed with 61 percent of the vote, while the medical measure passed with 69 percent.

Afterwards, Johnson moved to Oregon and practiced law for two years with NORML lawyer Leland

Berger. In 2006, he was hired as political director of the cannabis-law reform organization Voter Power and co-authored the dispensary initiative that would become Measure 74, the Oregon Regulated Medical Marijuana Supply System. Even without the usual attention and big-money donations that accompany a major statewide initiative, Johnson rallied activists to collect the 86,000-plus signatures needed to qualify it for the Oregon ballot in 2010.

By the time you're reading this, you'll know whether Johnson and other Oregon activists were successful in creating a regulated dispensary system supplied by small-time producers subject only to a \$1,000 licensing fee. But by going from a NORML college-chapter member to the author of medical-marijuana initiatives on a statewide ballot, Anthony Johnson is already a Freedom Fighter worth celebrating.—Russ Bellville

Listen to NORML's daily audio podcast at [stash.norml.org](http://stash.norml.org).



Anthony Johnson





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**munchies**

# GANJA MAYO

A gelatinous emulsion with cannabis propulsion. By Ashley Boudreaux

This month we're winding back the clock a few centuries to re-examine some culinary basics—because with a solid foundation, the possibilities are only as limited as your imagination and your pantry supplies. So step into my time machine, cue the weird music and pass that fatty.

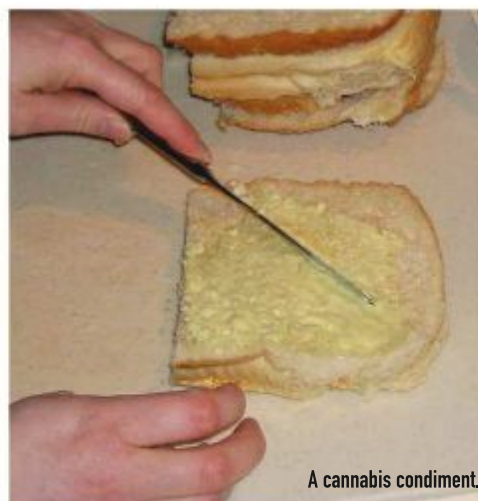
At the height of the French Revolution, a boy named Antonin Carême was abandoned on the streets of Paris and taken in by a cook who made him earn his keep by toiling away in the kitchen. As Carême grew in stature and skill, he began creating fantastic, over-the-top table centerpieces made of pastry and spun sugar. Eventually, his epicurean delights graced the tables of Napoleon, the Romanovs and King George IV. Carême invented the chef's hat, and caramel was named after him. He was also responsible for the rise of the tomato in French cuisine. The guy was a fucking rock star. He was the first celebrity chef, stroking the taste buds of the rich and famous before the "father of French cuisine," Auguste Escoffier, was even born.

Carême believed that there were four basic families of sauces from which hundreds of variations and recipes could be created by adding things like cheese, wine and spices. All of these sauces are roux-based, which means they're cannabis-friendly: Cannabi-

noids bond with fats, and roux is simply fat and flour in equal parts simmered to a thick paste designed to be used as a thickening agent. The longer it cooks, the nuttier its flavor, and the deeper the body of the dish—but the less it thickens the dish it supports.

Carême's four major sauces were as follows: *béchamel*, a light blonde roux with scalded milk added; *espagnole*, a dark roux with veal stock or water; *velouté*, a blonde roux with chicken, veal or fish stock; and *allemande*, which is similar to *velouté*, but thickened with egg yolks, lemon and cream.

Some folks have argued that *allemande* shouldn't count, since it's a compound sauce. Auguste Escoffier must not have held it in very high regard; when he attained culinary fame in the next century, he tweaked Carême's "mother sauces," ditching the *allemande* and adding tomato sauce, Hollandaise and mayonnaise to the list. The latter two were related to *velouté*—both use egg yolks and lemon juice. So, although mayonnaise had been around since at least 1756, it was given its "mother sauce" designation by Escoffier. Mayo may not seem like an appropriate addition to that list, but it *is* an emulsified sauce, and it provides the foundation for other things like *rémolade* and *aioli*. Mayo is also a crucial ingredient in a whole bunch of savory dishes, dips and salads—it's so versatile, in fact, that we rarely give it much thought. But pair it up with ganja? Well, that just puts it on a much higher plane. ✨



A cannabis condiment.

## GANJA MAYONNAISE

- 1 cup soybean oil
- ½ oz ganja shake
- 2 large egg yolks
- 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp white vinegar
- ½ tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 pinch salt

*(Note: You should give this recipe a run-through once without the ganja, just to get the feel for proper oil/yolk emulsification, because if the mayo "breaks" with the ganja in it—well, that could be a financial bite.)*

In a double-boiler, combine the oil and ganja. Heat over low until the ganja smell is pronounced, but not nutty or burnt. (The oil should have an earthy green tint to it.) Let cool. Remove and squeeze the weed. Make sure that *all* of your ingredients have been brought to room temperature—this is crucial! In a blender (an immersion blender, preferably) or a small metal bowl (use a whisk), thoroughly blend the egg yolk, lemon juice, salt, vinegar and mustard. Using a ¼ teaspoon measure, very slowly add the oil, a few drops at a time, while constantly whisking or blending on low until the mayo is thick and starting to form ribbons. (If it's too thick, you can add room-temperature water in tiny increments.) If your mixture breaks, it can be repaired by whisking some more room-temperature egg yolks in a separate bowl, then slowly whisking in the broken-mayo mixture. If that doesn't do it, add a few drops of hot water. Cover and chill; it'll keep for about four to five days. Stones 12 to 14.



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BY NICO ESCONDIDO

# EVERYTHING MEDICAL & MORE

Welcome to our mini-section devoted wholly to medicinal strains, news, uses, developments, activism, politics ... everything and anything, really, that is medically related to marijuana. This is your *Cannabis Clinic!*

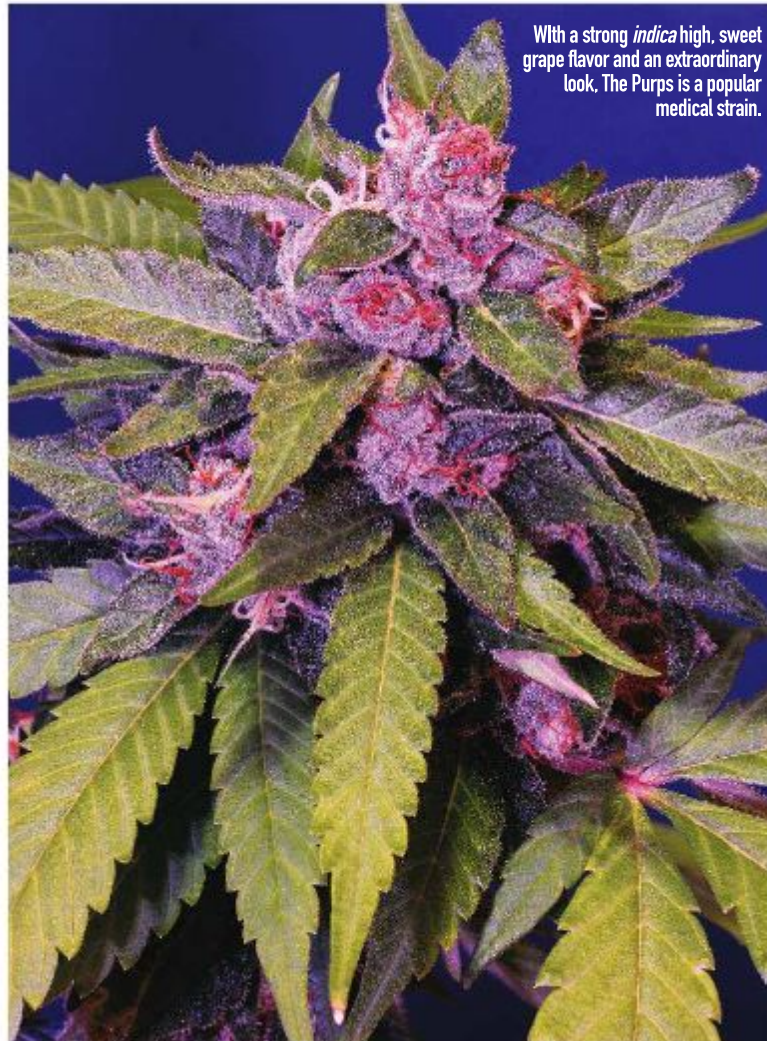
## New Study Finds Cannabis Use Beats Pain

We have to be honest here, folks: We at HIGH TIMES get a good chuckle every time some big news conglomerate (in this case, CBS blew up the story) reports on a “new” study that shows marijuana helps people medically. In this story, the big newflash out of Canada was on research that showed that the regular use of cannabis can treat chronic pain in patients. Yeah, thanks for the update, CBS.

Studies on the medical uses of cannabis (and reports on the positive effects therein) have been going on for the past 40 years (or centuries if you count the medicinal uses of native people around the world). But these days, medical marijuana is a trend, and it’s suddenly hip to be positive about cannabis. Well, welcome to the bandwagon, big media—nice to have you aboard (though we know you’ll jump ship at the first sign of backlash against MMJ, which is inevitable).

But okay, enough belittling the mass media. This study is actually pretty interesting, since it shows that smoking cannabis three times a day for about a week can reduce chronic pain and help patients sleep better. Statistics released by the Canadian Medical Association showed that a single inhalation of 25 mg of 9.4% tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) herbal cannabis three times daily for five days reduced the intensity of pain, improved sleep and was well tolerated by the 21 participants who completed the trial.

More information can be found at [www.cmaj.ca](http://www.cmaj.ca) (or you can search CBS.com for the network’s groundbreaking take on it as well).



With a strong *indica* high, sweet grape flavor and an extraordinary look, The Purps is a popular medical strain.

## Medicinal Strain of the Month: The Purps

An ever-popular cannabis strain that traverses a multitude of varieties, flavors and treatments, the Purps is often viewed as a mélange of different genetics, all with one common thread: their purple color. However, the Purps, which is in fact a stand-alone strain, can easily be confused with the likes of numerous other purple strains such as Granddaddy Purple or Purple Urkel. Some growers like to assert that these strains are actually all the same, since they all originate in or near Northern California, but it’s more likely that these varieties are siblings and share a common parent.

The Purps is identifiable by its unmistakable grape aroma and flavor as well as its interwoven orange hairs and tiny purple sugar leaves. Its pungent smell alone is enough to entice patients, let alone its exotic look. An *indica*-dominant strain, the Purps produces tight, dense nugs that pack a powerful punch.

Whether grown indoors or out, the Purps is generally a great yielder. When flushed properly, her flavor is explosive and lingers on the palate. Patients around the world find her medicinal properties particularly healing when dealing with muscle pain and other pain-related symptoms. The Purps is also great for treating anxiety and stress, as she possesses above-average counts of cannabidiol (CBD).

## New Mexico Proposes MMJ Tax on Medical Growers

Late this summer, New Mexico proposed what it called “an administrative fee” to help the state Department of Health fund its medical-marijuana program. However, the annual “fee” was actually equal to seven percent of a grower’s total annual gross receipts, which some might

call a “sales tax.” There was also a proposed increase in the application fee for would-be medical-marijuana producers, from \$100 to \$1,000.

Currently in New Mexico, the medical-marijuana law provides an application process for growers who wish to become licensed nonprofits and grow medical cannabis for patients. The Department of Health spent over a year creating regula-

tions for this system of state-licensed nonprofit growers after NM passed its medical-marijuana law in 2007. As of September 2010, there were 2,250 active medical-marijuana patients in the state, 1,022 of whom were licensed to grow their own supply.

The state estimates that medical growers can earn anywhere from \$300,000 to \$400,000 in gross revenue per year. So if, say, 1,000 growers each generate \$300,000 a year, the state can garner \$21 million with its annual tax—a staggering number during a time in which states across the US are looking for ways to bolster their budgets. This tax would also help the program be financially self-sufficient, since it’s been funded from other Health Department programs and projects up to this point.

Several other proposed changes to the medical law include keeping confidential the names of doctors who certify that a patient’s condition warrants a cannabis prescription. In NM, medical practitioners do not actually prescribe cannabis; rather, they declare that patients have any one of 16 ailments that have been approved for treatment by medical marijuana, as stipulated by the legislation. Approved patients are then allowed to possess up to six ounces of medical cannabis at any one time.

Additionally, a new testing program has been proposed as part of the revised medical program. If implemented, samples of medical marijuana would be lab-tested for mold or other contaminants. The state is also proposing open and closed enrollment periods for new growers to apply. NM licensed its first grower in March of 2009 and currently has 11 state-certified growers. Applicants face harsh screening procedures, however, according to the Health Department, and those that qualify are limited to a total of 95 plants and seedlings, with an inventory that is restricted according to the needs of registered patients.

Perhaps what is most interesting and unique in all of the revisions is that the new legislation would provide for a patient’s possession of seeds—one of the first revisions of its kind in any of the 15 medicinal states. Patients licensed by the state to cultivate their own medicine would be allowed to obtain no more than 16 seeds from a nonprofit grower within a three-month period. ✨

Got medical questions? Pass ‘em over to Nico at [nico@hightimes.com](mailto:nico@hightimes.com).



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# STRAIN BREEDING

Facts, history and a guide to some of North America's top strains.

Story and photos by Subcool

The following note sets are from renowned cannabis breeder and medical grower Subcool and include background and descriptions of some of the world's top strains, including Apollo 13 (BX), Vortex and Black Russian (which has disappeared). Vortex took home first place in the Sativa category at the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in San Francisco this past June.

## THE BEGINNING

The story of Apollo 13 begins with the Brothers Grimm, cannabis breeders who were only around for a short time but had a huge impact on my cannabis collection and genetics stock. One of their preeminent strain creations was the fabled Apollo 13, and it is without a doubt one of my all-time favorites. Never mind the fact that she produced some of the best red-colored bubble hash ever made, or that her buds have amazing potency—her best quality may very well be the genetics locked inside, which produce extraordinary hybrids when used in breeding projects!

I have written extensively on the history of Apollo 13, but just in case you're unfamiliar with the strain, allow me to cover some basic facts. Apollo 13 is a cross between Genius and P-75, two strains created by the Brothers Grimm. I grew Genius about eight years ago, at the same time I was growing Apollo 13, and I actually let that cutting go because of her small yields. Back then, I was much more concerned with yield over quality, but I regret that now, as Genius (an Apollo 11 phenotype) was my second-favorite smoke—and considering that Apollo is still one of my favorites to this day, I'm sure that Genius would have been as well.

Only 500 Apollo 13 seeds were ever produced, so it was rare to begin with—and then, out of that small gene pool, only three cuttings that I'm aware of survive to this day from the original stock. We were lucky enough to have saved not only two packs of seeds, but also to acquire one of the prized female cuttings from someone close to the source. It's very hard to describe Apollo 13, as she is unique among cannabis plants (excluding her hybrids). She has a very strong aroma that is a mix of sour fruit and black pepper, as well as an underlying citrus scent that mixes with the general skunkiness. Here's what the Brothers Grimm had to say:

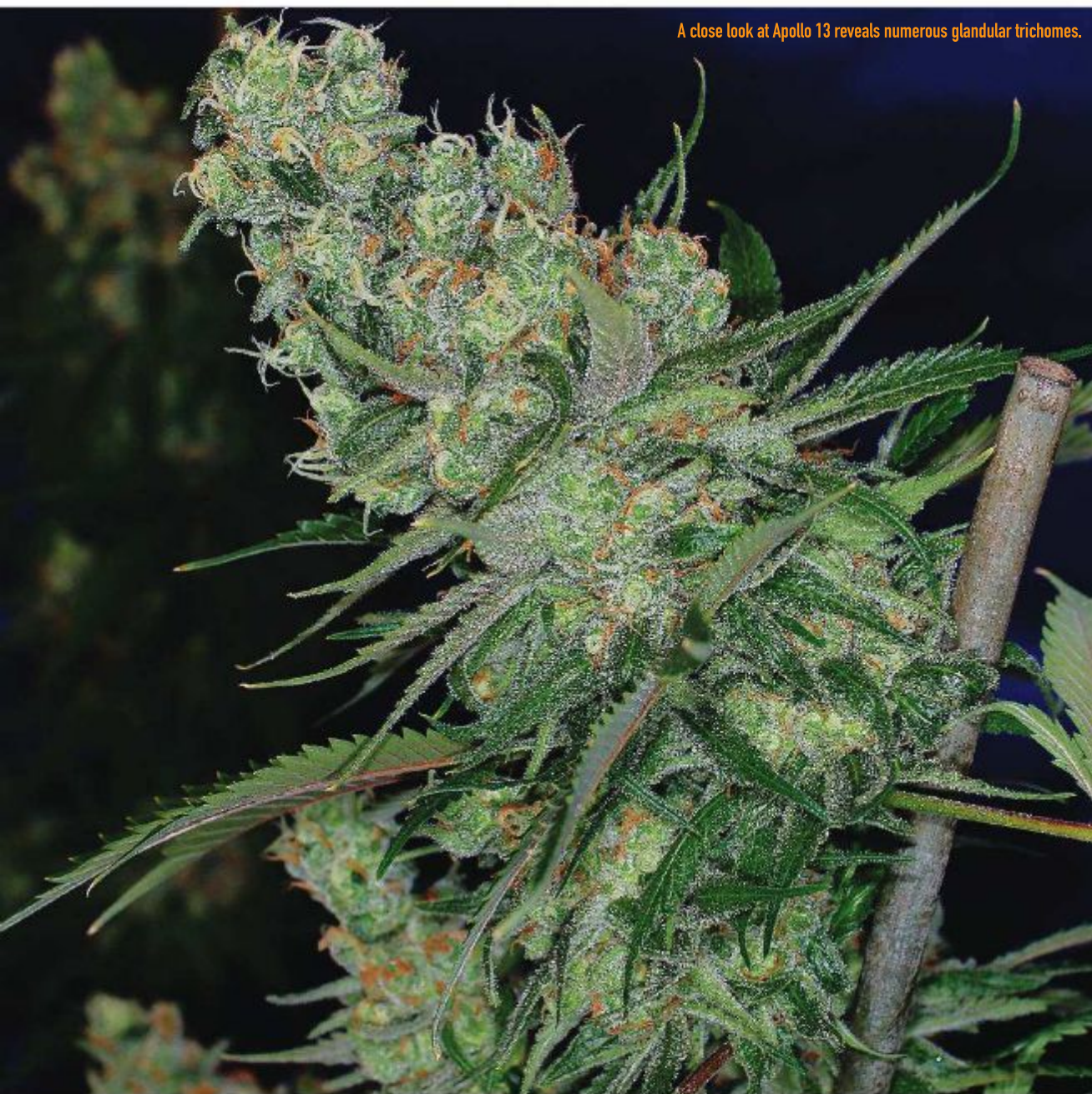
*Apollo 13: This skunky girl will make your eyes water with her pungent perfume. The delicate balance of indica/sativa makes Apollo 13 perfect for growers limited to a single strain. The long, fat colas and sparkling, sticky side branches really weigh in at harvest time. This is the type of smoke you can't hold down; it expands and "blasts off" from the lungs. The high is clear and cerebral, without a hint of paranoia. Her citrus flavor and happy high make Apollo 13 very popular at parties! Two hits and you can leave your own footprints on the moon. Flowering: 45-55 days. Height: 120-150 cm. Yield: 400 gm/m<sup>2</sup>.*

So for years I grew this girl out, writing stories about her exploits and making some great hash along the way. Finally, when I got into breeding cannabis, I used her to create one of my award-winning strains, combining Apollo 13 with Space Queen to create an instant winner in Vortex—easily one of the best hybrids I've ever done. Supporters of my work (both at home and online) urged me to continue my work with the Apollo 13 and backcross the mother plant in order to produce what we in the breeding game call a BX (B = back and X = cross). This process is the method of using a plant's sibling male to pollinate the mother plant (hence the "backcross") in order to produce a hybrid with additional (or stronger) traits from that mother plant.

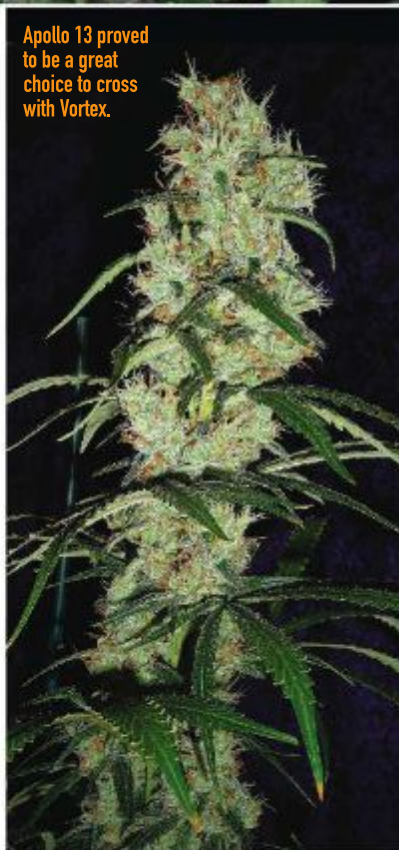
In theory, each time a backcross is performed, the resulting seeds produce plants more and more like the mother plant (though this isn't always the case, as different phenotypes may be expressed in the offspring). Usually, though, each time the step is repeated (i.e., over numerous backcrossings), the desirable traits of the mother plant are increased. However, I should also note that if a grower continues the process, there is not—or so I have found—a great benefit as far as stability goes. One proper backcross of the correct plants, however, can yield an amazingly close replica of the mother plant in high numbers.



A close look at Apollo 13 reveals numerous glandular trichomes.



Apollo 13 proved to be a great choice to cross with Vortex.



## THE HOW

Once I was finally talked into this project by lovers of the Apollo 13, I started by germinating 20 Vortex seeds in order to find 10 suitable males to select for a breeding program. As luck would have it, I got 19 female plants—and even though the one male in the bunch was a good one, we decided to scrap that project for the time being. Later that year, I had another legal grower start 40 seeds for me, and over time we worked our way down to four nice males that we put through our selection process until we found the one male that performed as we wanted.

This process is very intricate and time-consuming, since the only way to check the traits of a male is to breed it with a known female; the resulting seeds are then grown out, and the hybrid that most resembles the mom is noted and the male plant that produced this effect is saved. This is how we created the Apollo 13 BX, but I did have one timesaving trick: As a contributor to many medical groups, I can donate these crosses to medical growers and then collect their information and apply it to my research. This saves a great deal of time, and I think it works better than having one person trying to track hundreds of plants over time.

By compiling this information in 2009, we were ready to do a test release of our Apollo 13 BX to some medical growers and then kick back to watch the findings come in. At the same time, I had some people close to me start a few packs so we could observe how the hybrid compared to the Apollo 13 mother plant. I knew we had a winner early on, but kept quiet as I saw plants in early growth just covered in resin. By week three of budding, I could start to smell traits I was already very familiar with in the BX. We released the strain privately late in 2009 and again sat back and waited as the gardens bloomed and the results came in. Once we were sufficiently impressed, the strain went live to the public in 2010 and quickly sold out in the first few weeks, leaving us scrambling to make more.

In the end, the Apollo 13 BX turned out to be the spitting image of her mother, and I'm hard-pressed to tell the difference when looking at my own pictures of the two. What's even more impressive is the collection of pictures I have from growers of the Apollo 13 BX, which look like I gave them my mother clone instead of seeds to start. I am completely satisfied with the results, and I can't wait to get a sample lab-tested for potency, as I suspect it will be off the charts. Much like her mom, the Apollo 13 BX's high is inspirational and motivating—as long as you don't overdo your consumption. It's a slight "creeper" high, but you still feel it quickly, and it just keeps on building. It is possible to take a few too many hits and immobilize yourself physically while your mind is running wild with way too many ideas to actually get anything done, so let the smoker beware!

### Subcool's Apollo 13 x Vortex Notes

Representing thousands of hours of selective breeding, we proudly offer our first backcross of Apollo 13. Painstaking care was taken in the male selection, and the project to locate him took 60 (male) plants and over a year of trial and research. The high is instant and powerful, yet also invigorating and inspirational. The THC profile of Apollo 13 really provides a boost of mental energy. Apollo 13 is prized for the very red bubble hash it produces, and many growers dream of processing the entire plant into hashish—including the buds!

*Vital Statistics - Apollo 13 x Vortex*

**PHENOTYPES:** The dominant variation expressed from seed is a mirror of the mother plant

**HEIGHT:** Tall, thin *sativa* look

**YIELD:** Medium yield, very resinous and sticky

**BEST WAY TO GROW:** Ideal for indoor & outdoor operations; easy to shape and train, allows any style of growing

**HARVEST WINDOW:** 55-60 days

**SATIVA / INDICA RATIO:** 85/15

**GENETICS:** Apollo 13 is a cross (hybrid) between Genius and P-75 (a precursor to C-99)

**HIGH:** The high is clear and cerebral, without a hint of paranoia

**TASTE:** Almost indescribable, like sour fruit with hints of citrus and pepper



## THE BLACK RUSSIAN

The Black Russian is one of the most amazing-looking strains ever to be photographed—and she's one of the main reasons I started writing. Allow me to explain: I've been growing cannabis and photographing the plant for a little less than 10 years. I love documenting as many strains as I possibly can. To me, seeds are like a box of Cracker Jacks, and I can't wait to see the surprise I get each time I grow a new strain from seed.

I had never really submitted any work to a magazine before, choosing instead the immediate feedback of the Internet and various sites like Overgrow. Then, one day, someone I know sent photographs of a Black Russian clone of mine over to the folks at HIGH TIMES, and they were immediately published! I decided then that if a plant I was growing was going to be in a magazine, why not do it myself? I owe Black Russian a lot, since I now contribute regularly to HIGH TIMES and have even published my own book on strains, entitled *Dank*. (Check it out!)

Black Russian went on to become extremely famous, and to this day breeders offer crosses made using these hybrids that we created using the Solid Purple female and the Dark Magenta male (which is the same one we used to create the F2 that we also released). These days, however, I don't like the Black Russian very much, and we currently offer no hybrids of the parents, nor does anyone in our circle of medical growers still grow it.

But why?

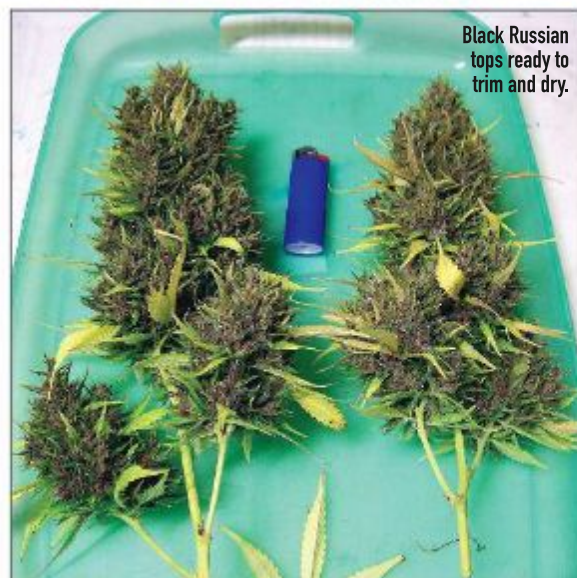
I thought it would be cool to share the behind-the-scenes story and shed some light on why I don't smoke—or even grow—one of the most sought-after cannabis crosses to surface in a long time. So here goes ....

At first, like everyone else, I was blown away by the looks of the Black Russian female we found using seeds from Nebu. My partner Mz. Jill had met him once, and Nebu had given her a few packs of his seeds—and when I landed out west, I saw pictures of Nebu's work and figured I had to give it a shot. We shared those seeds with friends up north, and I ended up with a few females and a few males, after which I narrowed it down to one female and one male based on things I've learned to look for over the years. I actually asked Nebu if this was okay, and his response was to have at it.

Everyone but me was gaga over that Black Russian's purple buds, but I thought it had a weird taste of musk and pepper that overpowered the nice grape smell and flavor lurking underneath. Meanwhile, everyone was screaming, "Give us some Black Russian F2s!" So I did, and they were released to the growing public. About 75 percent of the females grown from seed turned an amazing color, but I still caught hell from every grower that didn't get a purple phenotype. (Damn Black Russian.)



Black Russian thickens into a dark purple spear.



Black Russian tops ready to trim and dry.

## 1,000 REASONS

I thought I could improve the strain's potency and taste, possibly by crossing it with one of my favorite mother plants, the Apollo 13. So I used the Black Russian male to pollinate an Apollo 13 female, thus creating the strain we called Sputnik. I grew out the new sibling cross, and we found a nice ratio of deep pink females to ones that only exhibited solid white pistils and green coloring. The surprising thing to me, however, was that the buds from the latter were so much better tasting and more severely potent than the buds from the deep pink females.

By this point, I had become convinced that potency and purple pot were not necessarily related. I stopped being so impressed with purple weed and started preaching that purple was just a color and not an indication of quality in any form other than looks. I passed the mother and father plants on to a medical grower and asked him to keep them alive (which he didn't). It was around this time that everyone that was able to get a pack of my Black Russian F2s started showing them off online—and then things really got crazy. But I had no more seeds to give out, and the few distributors still holding packs were getting prices never before heard of for cannabis seeds. The last pack went for \$1,000 (and I should make clear that none of that money went into my pocket, as I feel that's taking advantage of people).

Meanwhile, once I moved out west, I was also able to sample some of the Kushes that people liked so much: OG Kush, Bubba Kush and Chemdog. And I realized then that I dislike the flavor of Kush! No matter which strain it is or how well it's grown, I just don't like the hot taste of Kush *indicas*. But I now understand why so many people loved the Black Russian, the Sputnik and the other hybrids spun off from this work: It wasn't a bad strain, just one I didn't enjoy the taste of.

I think of it this way: Some people love blue-cheese salad dressing, while the mere thought of it makes others cringe. And the same can be said for cannabis flavors—except I discovered this too late. The whole experience did teach me that there are many, many different pot palettes (and palates), so I no longer rush to judgment based on my own personal tastes. After all, the Black Russian always got me really high—I just rarely got past the taste of the first bowl.

After our relocation out west, I was able to find an amazing-tasting Urkel female that also turns an amazing color, though nothing like the neon purple of the Black Russian. The Urkel was, however, much better pot, and the strain we created with it, Querkle, is an amazing *indica* with purple traits and a great grape flavor. So I don't hate purple anymore either—and that's a very good thing. In fact, a new hybrid we created using Querkle, this one called Qleaner, has become one of my favorite strains of all time! It tastes like grape soda but has the added potency of Jack's Cleaner.

So that's it: the story of a strain you may have seen or heard about, and why it's now more of an urban legend than it is a seed that growers can actually acquire. Several breeders still do offer hybrids they created using our past seeds, though, and that is one hell of an honor. ✨

*Subcool is the author of Dank and the owner of TGA Seeds. Visit TGA Seeds at [www.tgagenetics.com](http://www.tgagenetics.com), or via seed banks like [The Attitude \(cannabis-seeds-bank.co.uk/\)](http://The Attitude (cannabis-seeds-bank.co.uk/) and [Hemp Depot \(hempdepot.ca\)](http://Hemp Depot (hempdepot.ca)).*



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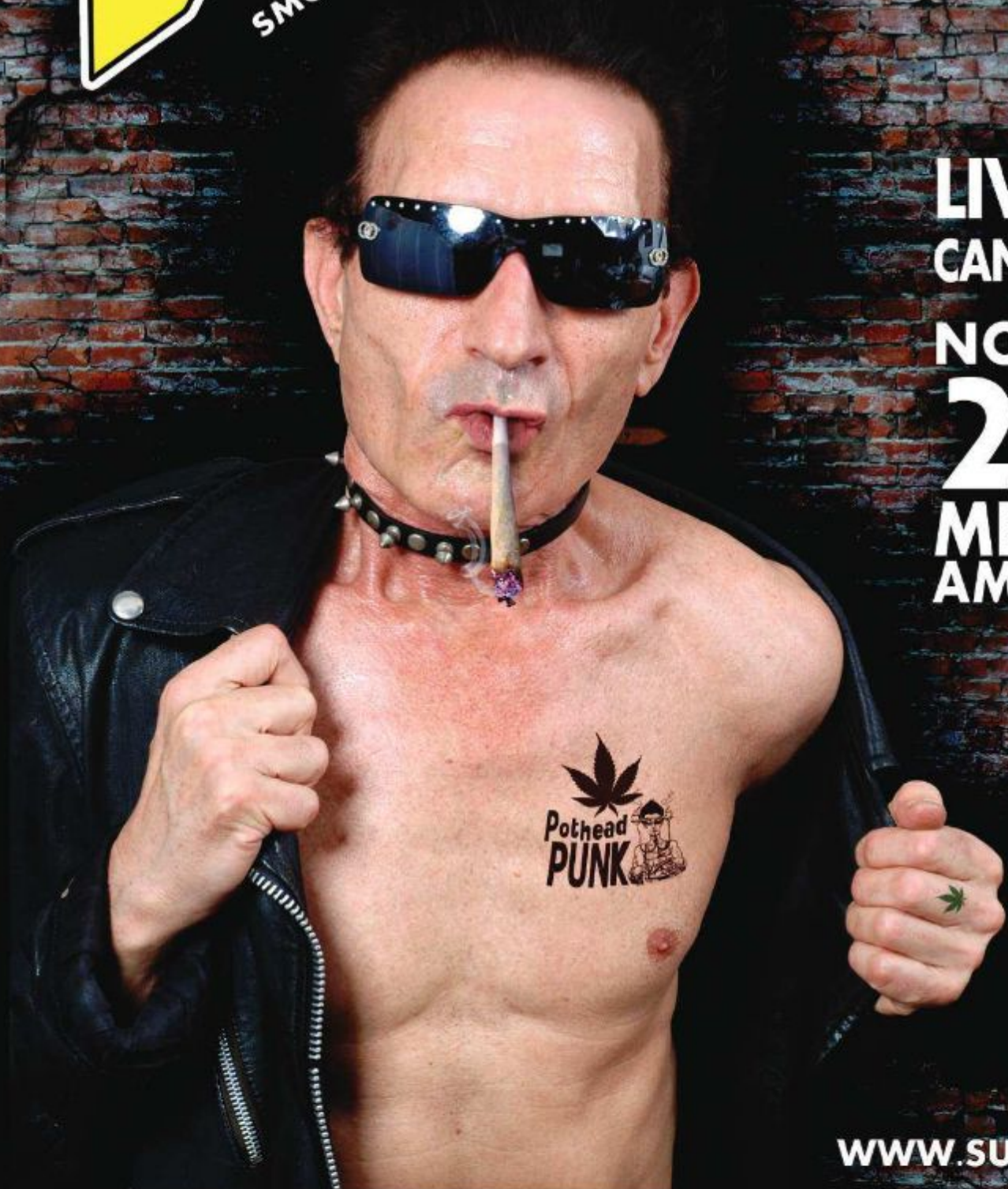
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## DEAR DANKO

ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO

**Auto-flowering Strains**

Hey there! I've been reading the magazine for a while, but my friend and I just started on our own little grow projects, and we're thinking of going with auto-flowering strains because of how quick and easy they are—but there are some regular strains I would love to try as well. So my question is: Would I be able to grow two Diesel Ryders and the Black in the same room and just vegetate the Black until the Diesel Ryder is finished, then begin my flowering photoperiod for both of them?

Lauper

Dear Lauper,

Auto-flowering strains are all the rage in Europe (many farmers in Spain won't grow anything but) as well as in parts of Canada due to their relative ease and super-short flowering times. Selective breeding has transformed the somewhat lackluster (in terms of high) *ruderalis* auto-flowerers of years past into a more potent plant that buds after a few weeks of growth, regardless of the photoperiod. Plants germinated in April can be harvested in July, long before police and thieves begin their rounds. We're especially excited about the new Haze Automatic strain from Dinafem in Spain, which combines auto-flowering characteristics with the buzz of a well-known *sativa*.

Growing auto-flowering plants alongside regular ones is fine. Your Black plants will vegetate and then flower after you've cut the light down to 12 hours a day, and the Diesel Ryders will finish around the same time, seven to eight weeks later.

**Yellow Lower Leaves**

As my outdoor plants are budding, the big fan leaves are starting to yellow from the bottom. Should I cut them off? Please let me know ... and thanks!

Mark

Dear Mark,

It's perfectly okay and quite effective to remove any leaves that are yellow from your plants. Typically, as plants mature, the lower leaves will start to yellow, since they are no longer being used to convert light into cellular growth. Picking the yellow leaves off will allow more light to reach the lower branches and prevent diseases and pests by removing the vulnerable places where they thrive. That's the reason sticky pest strips are yellow: Bugs are attracted to the color of struggling plant growth so they can begin their attack at a weak spot.

Removing healthy leaves is not recommended, however, because those are the "power stations" that absorb light and give a plant energy to grow. Some selective removal is okay, but al-

ways err on the side of caution when taking off fan leaves. Remember that the yellowing that occurs toward the end of the cannabis plant's life cycle is natural and a good sign that nutrients are leaching out of your plant, which means cleaner-burning and better-tasting buds.

**Cannabis Careers**

I have a couple of questions dealing with marijuana, and who better to go to than the almighty HIGH TIMES? For starters, I'm currently attending college for my transfer associate's degree. I have a profound love and respect for marijuana and all that she stands for: My surrogate parents are hippies, and the "cannabis way" is a lifestyle we've learned, and one that I happen to enjoy immensely. I'm also an active participant in NORML petition drives for the legalization of marijuana.

After being given the ultimatum of choosing what I'll be majoring in after obtaining my associate's degree, I've decided what I wanted to do with my life—and now we come full circle to my questions. I've read that, aside from dispensaries, careers dealing with marijuana are few and far between, consisting mostly of growing or providing legal counsel. So I'm curious: Do you know what steps or classes I would need to take to begin growing or legally become involved in strain





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Protect outdoor plants from lights at nighttime in order to ensure that they continue flowering.

development or crossbreeding? I'm thinking horticulture classes, biology, plant anatomy, science, etc., but I'm not sure ... which is where you come in. I'm never one to waste time; I know that if I'm to choose a profession, I not only have to be completely immersed in the subject, but I need to be passionate about it, and I need to know that I'm making a difference for something I believe in strongly—and that describes my views on cannabis.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and (hopefully) give me a response.

*Krista*

Dear Krista,  
Congratulations on choosing a career in cannabis! I can assure you that, while it's not always easy to make a living in the marijuana culture, it surely is fun and fulfilling. In prior years, legitimate jobs were few and far between, with limited options outside of working for a few nonprofits or as a criminal-defense attorney. Recently, however, with all the advances in cannabis-law reform, many new careers—from growing medical marijuana or running a dispensary to lobbying the government or gathering petitions—have become a reality.

My first suggestion, since you're still in school, is to join your college's SSDP (Students for Sensible Drug Policy) chapter, or start one if

need be. It's a wonderful entry point into the world of pot activism, and you'll meet many like-minded individuals, some of whom will become lifelong allies and friends.

As you've indicated, taking as many classes in horticulture and plant science as you can will give you valuable information and lessons on where to begin. Read every book you can find on the subject, and always be willing to learn more from elders in the community. There are also several wonderful cannabis schools popping up in the wake of Richard Lee's successful Oakland University in Oakland, CA. These are places where you can get on the fast track to understanding cultivation, activism and entrepreneurship, and I highly recommend taking a full schedule of courses before embarking on a cannabis career.

### Light Leaks Outdoors

Will the light from the security light on my neighbor's garage—which is very bright and shines into my yard at night—affect the blooming process of my plants? And when are you coming for a visit to NorCal? Cheese is growing strong in the Trinity and in many small gardens all along the highways and byways of the wonderfully beautiful Emerald Triangle ....

*Hempie Chef of Shasta*



Dear Hempie Chef,  
Greetings, and thanks so much for the incredible cannabis-infused feasts that you catered for our first-ever HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in San Francisco last June! As for your question, the security light could definitely affect your budding plants. If the light is bright enough, it could interrupt their flowering cycle and revert them back to their vegetative stage.

The best thing you can do is to block that light from reaching your plants. Raise the fence or build a barrier that will protect your crops during the dark cycle to ensure that they continue to flower and reach maturity. A little light is okay—think of the amount given off by a full moon—but too much will confuse your plants and limit your harvest severely.

I can't wait to return to the wonderful gardens of Northern California. The hospitality of the residents and the enormous size of the plants they grow in full sun are legendary. Last time I was there, I saw weed farms the size of apple orchards and pot trees as large as 30 feet tall!

### Planter Size

Thank you for the opportunity to be able to ask questions like this. My plant is now four to five weeks old and has been doing perfect outside with Miracle Gro soil. I'm growing it in a coconut planter, and my question is: I'm getting ready to replant it into a larger 5-gallon pot, but I'd like to use a 16-inch coconut planter, since I find my plant growing much faster with one. Can I finish out the rest of the growth period using a 16- or 22-inch planter? Is that deep enough?

GGB

Dear GGB,  
By "coconut planter," I believe you're referring to the coco-coir plant containers that are typically used to line the insides of more sturdy pots. They're great to use due to their porosity, since they allow air to reach the roots better than soil-less mixes. The containers you suggest are deep enough to grow cannabis, but I would go with the largest one you can find in order to optimize your yield.

One note on Miracle Gro products: These are formulated for ornamental flowers and are not organic, nor are they meant for vegetable production, in my opinion. Since they're made up of concentrated salts and metals generated in a lab, it's easy to burn your plants with Miracle Gro products and difficult to flush them out in the end. I recommend you try a more earth-friendly and cannabis-specific product, such as Earth Juice or Age Old Organics, in order to grow cleaner-burning and better-tasting pot.

### Pollen Catcher

How do you tell if a female plant has been pollinated?

John

Dear John,  
Shortly after a female flower has encountered male pollen, it will begin to shift over its efforts from expanding bud growth to producing seeds. The bracts will begin to swell, and the white hairs will quickly start to turn red and shrivel up. Soon after, the swollen calyxes will open and you'll be

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These plants will eventually end up root-bound in their current containers.

able to see seeds protruding from them.

Pollination and seed production can only occur in the presence of a pollen-producing male (or a hermaphroditic female, which also produces pollen), so it's important to limit your plants' exposure to both. Check your plants for signs of male flowers often, especially during the first three weeks of the flowering period. Terminate all males or hermaphrodites with extreme prejudice as soon as they're discovered, unless you want a harvest riddled with beans instead of buds.

### Outdoor Grow Holes

I'd like to know if I can plant seeds directly into my native soil, or whether it's better to use a store-bought soil mix?

*Horsemeat Henry*

Dear HH,  
Interesting nickname! It's possible to plant directly into your soil, but that's not nearly as effective as actually digging out a hole and filling it with a loose, airy mix. The bigger the hole you dig, the more room for the roots to expand, and thus the more you'll harvest from each plant. Outdoors in full sun, I recommend a minimum of 3 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep—but, as I said, the bigger the better. Outdoor growers have been known to rent a tractor backhoe to excavate huge holes for their plants.

Fill your hole with soilless mix (peat or coco works well) and plenty of compost and worm castings, then add whatever other amendments you wish to benefit from; these can include greensand, bat or seabird guano, beneficial mycorrhizae, dead fish at the bottom of the hole, and even the placenta from a recently born baby. All of these things will provide a steady diet of soluble nutrients for your plants as they grow.

The best thing about having your own mix in the hole instead of native soil is that the much higher level of drainage and porosity will allow air to reach plant roots. In subsequent years, you can add nutrients to the mix and place compost directly on the surface as a top dressing.

### Root-Bound

My plants grew really well for the first few weeks, and then it's like they suddenly hit a wall: Growth slowed to a crawl, and no matter what I do, nothing works. The plants look perfectly healthy, but they're not advancing at all. My buddy told me they're root-bound. The containers I'm using are 1-gallon pots. Are these too small? How do I know if my plants are root-bound, and what can I do about it?

*Doogie Hazer*

Dear DH,  
Your friend is right: Your plants are root-bound, meaning they have outgrown the size of their



containers, and you need to transplant them immediately. Root-bound plants send messages back to the growing shoots that there is no more room for them to expand. Branches respond to these hormonal changes by ceasing growth and adjusting to life in a smaller container. Houseplants do the same thing.

Prepare your new, larger growing container with a healthy scoop of fresh medium up to the level of your previous container's height. You won't be filling in the sides until after you've transplanted your root-bound plant. Moisten the mix in the bottom of your buckets or pots to the consistency of a wrung-out sponge.

Before transplanting a root-bound plant, thoroughly soak the growing medium, because a dried-out medium will crumble and fall apart, greatly damaging the root system. Once the medium is completely moistened, flip over the container and lightly tap it on the back and sides to loosen the soil and root-ball from the inside of your pot. Be gentle: You want to keep the entire root structure and soil mass together. It should come out of the container fairly easily if you follow these steps.

### Acquiring Live Cannabis Seeds

I live in the USA and want to know if it's illegal to order seeds online—and also if it's a bad idea? I've wanted to do it, but I'm also afraid it might get me busted. Thanks!

*Chadwick*

Dear Chadwick,

It is illegal in the US, yes. The truth is that ordering seeds over the Internet requires entering into a murky territory as far as the integrity of your transaction is concerned. Little can be done when money has been sent and no seeds arrive. Complaints on the Internet about about fly-by-night companies that send nothing—or, even worse in some cases, questionable seeds of dubious origin.

Never have seeds sent to the address where you live or where you're planning to grow. Instead, find a friend or sympathetic relative willing to take the relative risk of having the beans confiscated before arrival, and then follow the seed company's ordering instructions and info to a T.

If you want to find a legitimate seed retailer or seller, the best thing you can do is a little research: How long have they been around? How is their customer service? How many complaints have been made? (Though keep in mind that almost every seed company has had a few disgruntled customers for one reason or another.) Or, better yet, take a look at my Seed Bank Hall of Fame winners and nominees at [hightimes.com/seedbankhalloffame](http://hightimes.com/seedbankhalloffame). These are my choices for the companies that have proven their worth with many years of diligent breeding, excellent customer service, and the creation of many HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup winners. Remember, those companies that stand the test of time are the ones with genetics worth investing in. Those that jump into the business with the intention to just take the money and run are fairly quickly weeded out. 🌱

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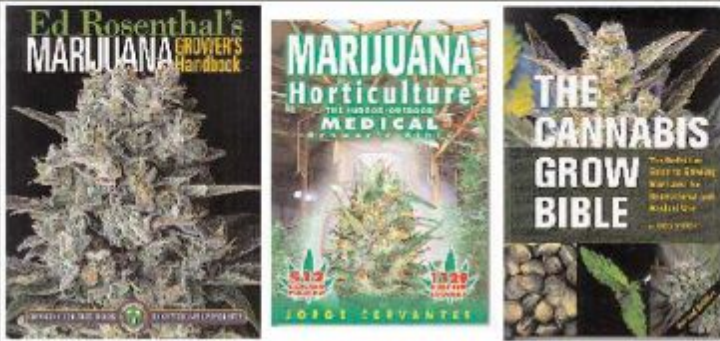
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DAN SKYE

## HYDRO BLOCKBUSTER!

Our 12th annual report on hydroponic cultivation covers systems, mediums and top tips to get going. Our indoor guru, cultivation editor Nico Escondido, offers in-depth analyses of the latest technologies, gear, strains and problem-shooting tactics to keep your hydro setup running smoothly and pumping out big yields. Plus, check out one of the most pristine hydroponic growrooms we've seen to date. Superb photos allow beginners and experts to experience the ins and outs as well as the ups and downs of successful systems.

### H<sub>2</sub>-GROW

We're all wet—because water is what this feature is all about! Plants can't grow without this essential element, yet growers often don't give it the attention it deserves. So if hydro is your grow system of choice, you'll need the cold, hard facts about water, water-filtration techniques, types of water, and how to measure, analyze and, yes, even drink ... water! Contributor Hugh Jielder tells you everything you need to know about indoor water maximization.

### STORYS IN HOLLYWOOD

The 10th Annual HIGH TIMES Stony Awards proved to be the most lavish film awards show in our history. The event drew a number of top celebs, including Jesse Ventura, Rob Corrdry, Pauly Shore, Doug Benson, Craig Robinson and Dan Finnerty.

### PHIGURING OUT PH

Understanding and controlling the acidity or alkalinity of your growing medium and nutrient solution is crucial to successful cannabis cultivation. New contributor Herb Spadowski, Ph.D., breaks down the proper levels for full food absorption and higher yields.

### MILE-HIGH MEDICINE

Colorado's medical-marijuana industry is booming, but the policies and politics surrounding it continue to evolve. Senior editor Bobby Black visits the state's oldest and largest dispensary for an investigative report.

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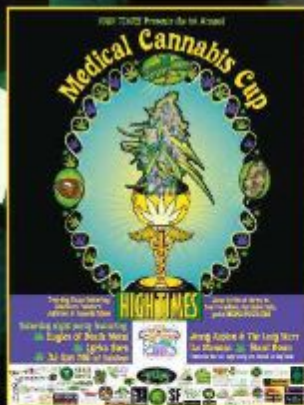


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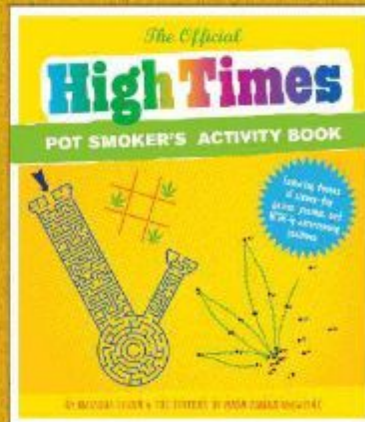


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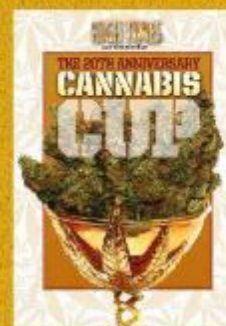
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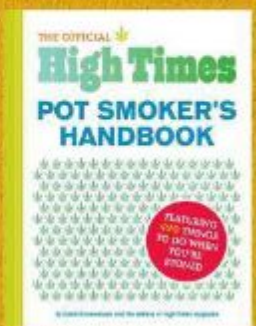
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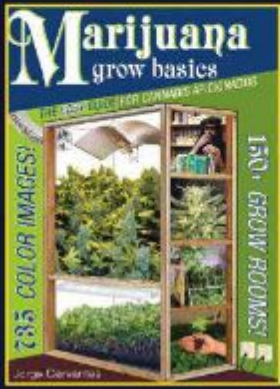


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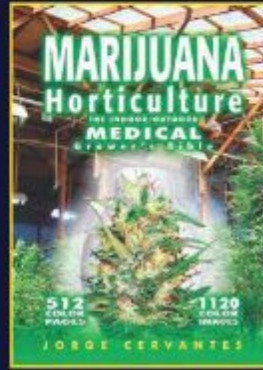


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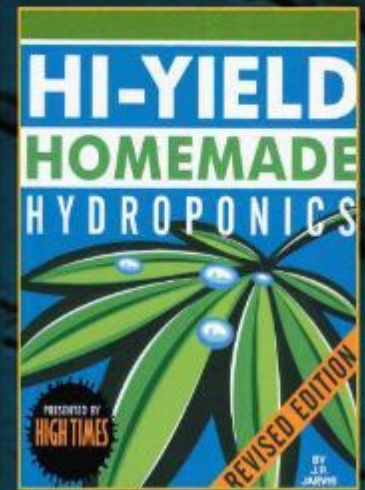
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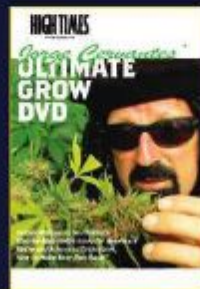
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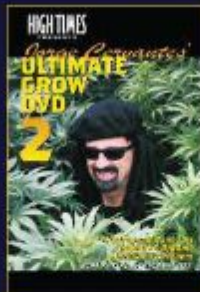
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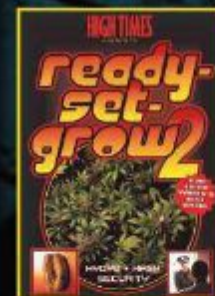
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# POT40

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**The Story of 420 in the Pot40**

THE FIRST REFERENCE TO 420 APPEARED IN THE POT40 WHEN IT WAS THE HEMP100. MAY BACK IN AUGUST 1991 (ISSUE # 192):

65 I WAS 420 ON 4-20 AT 4:20

THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLISHED REFERENCE TO 420 ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD THAT WE CAN FIND.

IN THE APRIL 1992 ISSUE (#200?) IT REAPPEARED!

89 IT'S 4:42 HOW RED ARE YOUR EYES?

AND AGAIN IN AUGUST 1992:

93 IT'S 4:20!!! DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR BONG IS?

AFTER THAT, IT BEGAN TO APPEAR MORE AND MORE, USUALLY IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS:

4-20 POT SMOKING IN PROGRESS

IT'S 4:20 AND WADDYA WANNA DO?

TEAM 420 - NORTHERN HUMBOLDT CHAPTER

THE 420 CLUB

BAKE AT 4:20 FOR 10-20 MINUTES

4:20 ALL DAY LONG

FUCK 4:20: I'M LIGHTING IT NOW!

THE POT40 IS PROUD TO HAVE BROUGHT THE 420 PHENOMENON INTO EXISTENCE, JUST AS WE HELPED POPULARIZE SO MANY OTHER THINGS.

SO VOTE FOR SOMETHING YOU LIKE, AND MAYBE IT WILL BECOME FAMOUS SOMEDAY!

1 **420**  
 On hand...  
 Northern Humboldt  
 Panama Red Skunk

11 **8:40**  
 TWICE AS NICE!!  
**STONERS UNITED.COM**  
 STONERS WITH WEB-CAMS UNITE AS ONE

21 **GRATEFUL DEAD**  
 Working in a Head Shop

31 **George Dickel**  
 Tennessee Sippin' Whiskey

32 A FRIEND WITH WEED IS...UM...UH...OH, YEAH **COOL!**

2 **MIGHTY HIGH**  
 BROOKLYN'S #1 REGRESSIVE ROCK ACT

3 **420 STEM**  
 STONER RAPPER & UHS RECORDS

4 **TREEZY 4 SHEEZY**

5 **Midnight Oasis**  
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6 **BONG LIVE!**  
 bonglive.com

7 **Chef Vin Jovis - MAGIC WEED COOKIES**

8 **Muscleweek**  
 A GOOD BOARD THAT STARTED A FEW MONTHS BACK TALKING ABOUT BODYBUILDING -AND THEY'RE 420 FRIENDLY. IF YOU LIKE LIFTING WEIGHTS, CHECK THEM OUT!

9 **LEGALIZE IT 420**  
 JUST SAY

10 Thank God for flora and fauna, especially cannabis marijuana

14 IF THE OPPOSITE OF "PRO" IS "CON," THEN THE "OPPOSITE" OF "PROGRESS" IS CONGRESS!

15 **VALENCIA PARK NEED HEAD!**  
 FULLERTON, CA

16 **STOP THE WAR**  
 KILL NO MORE, IT'S MAKING US CRIPPLED AND POOR. WE SHOULD BE LEGALLY SMOKING AFGHAN HASH INSTEAD OF AFGHAN REBELS!

17 **Oh Lord, Want you buy me a Mercedes-Benz?**

18 **GOD'S NATURAL MEDICINE**

19 It's my duty to please **Captain BOOTY** my 22-year-old cat

20 **VIRGIN ISLAND BUDZ**

22 **GRATEFUL DEAD**

23 **Harold & Kumar**  
 Getting stoned and watching

24 **Hellcats**

25 **DRZED & CONFUSED**

26 **DRZED & CONFUSED**

27 **STOP THE WAR**

28 I've been weedless for a month and drunk as a skunk, so my PO will find nothing in my pee but pure rocky mountain spring water.

29 **Oh Lord, Want you buy me a Mercedes-Benz?**

30 **GOD'S NATURAL MEDICINE**

33 "NEVER COOK WITH A WINE YOU WOULD NOT DRINK!"



35 THE GREAT STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE NEEDS A GOVERNOR THAT DOESN'T VETO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, BUT ENDORSES IT.



36 **WHY DO THEY PUT FENCES AROUND A CEMETERY?**  
 A: EVERYONE'S DYING TO GET IN

37 **PARTY NAKED**  
 IT'S EASIER TO GET LAID

39 "MOE, YOU KNOW I CAN'T WORK UNLESS I GET HIGH FIRST? I SURE COULD USE A GREAT BIG HIT OF COLUMBIAN RED! NYUK NYUK NYUK!"  
 "WELL, I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE COLUMBIAN, BUT HERE'S THE HIT!"  
 "OW! MY KNEE -NEE -NEE -NEE -NEE -NEE! MRRREEEP!"

40 I GUESS THEY CALL IT A ROACH CLIP BECAUSE 'POT HOLDER' WAS ALREADY TAKEN.

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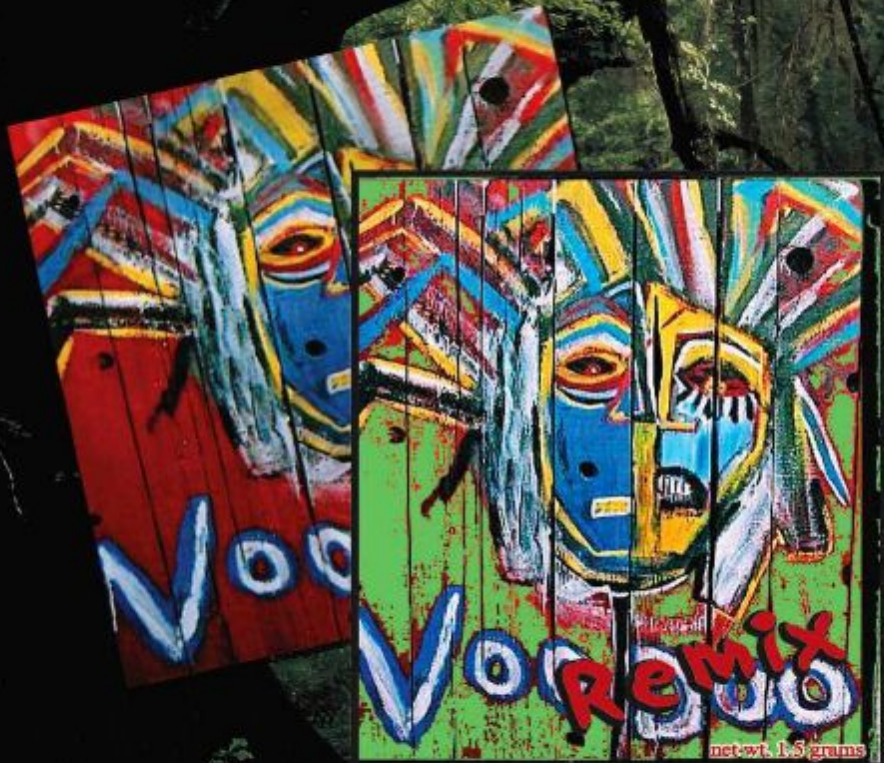
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Compiled by  
 The Pot 40  
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# VOODOO INCENSE

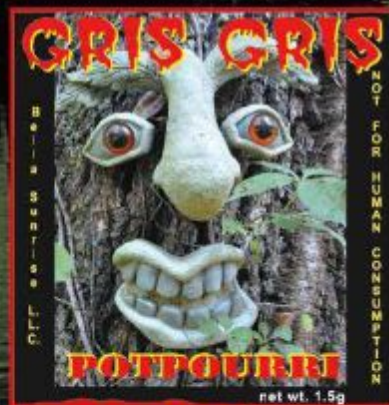
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