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# HIGH TIMES

OCT 417

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## TOP 20 POT COLLEGES

## STEP BY STEP HARVEST TIPS

## CANNABIS CUP 2010 PREVIEW

## LEWIS BLACK MAD COMIC



### SNOOP'S GUIDE TO BLUNTS



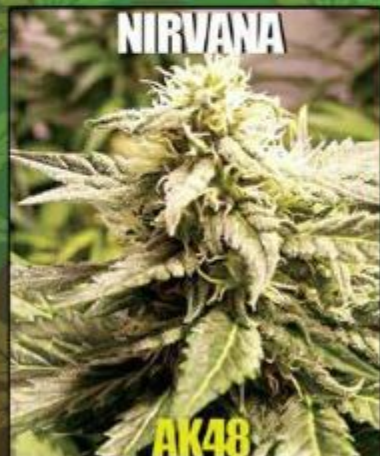
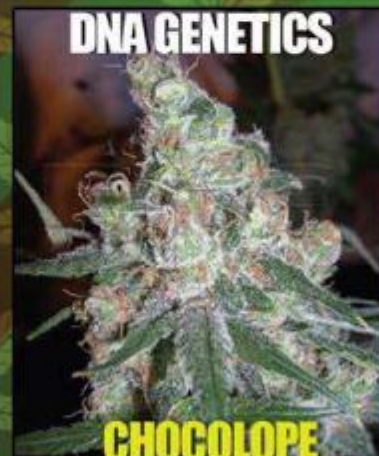
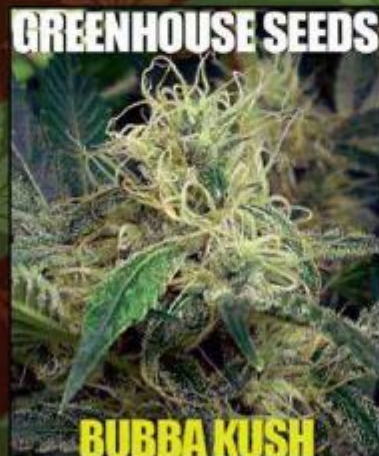
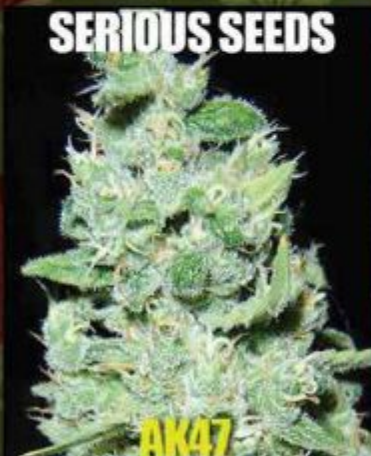
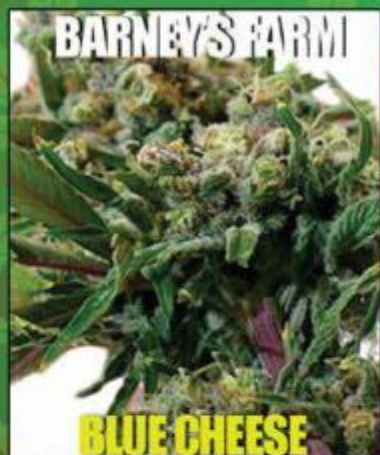
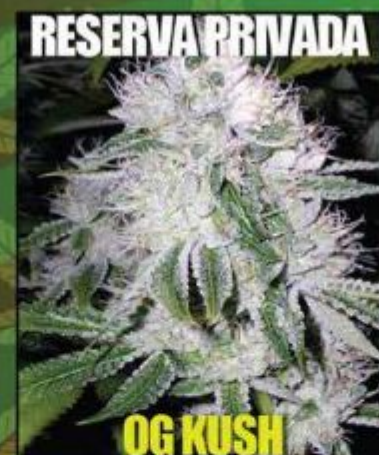
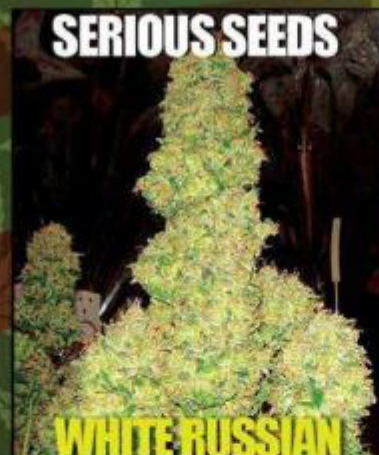
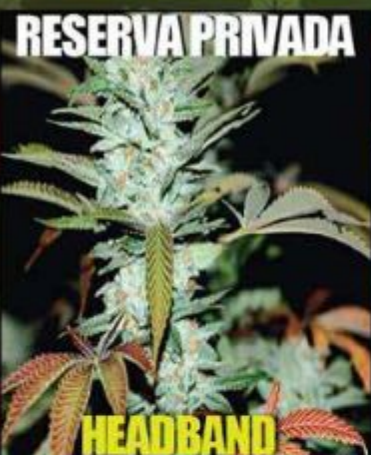
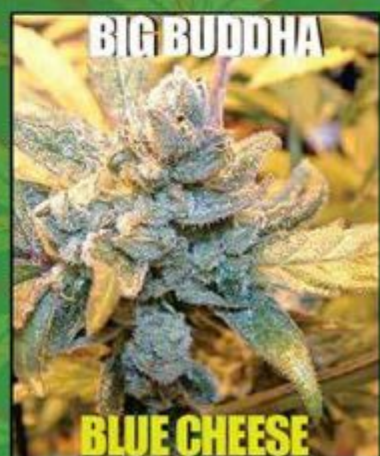
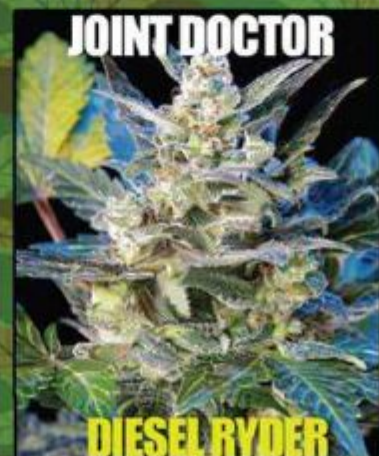
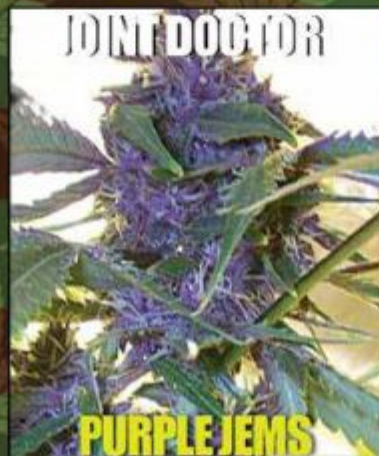
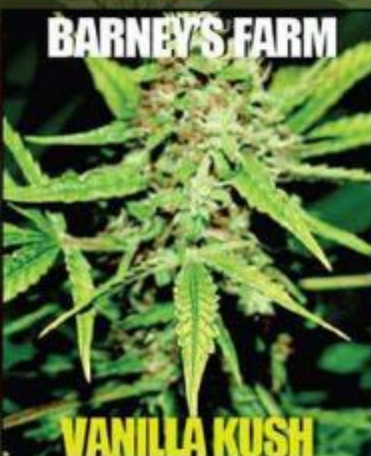
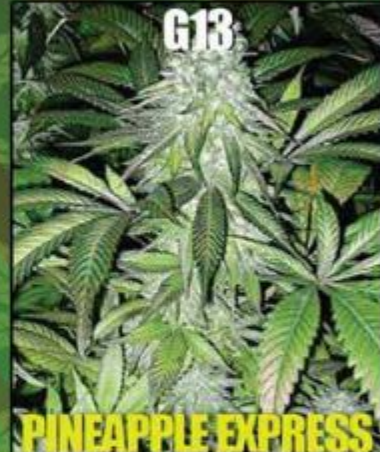
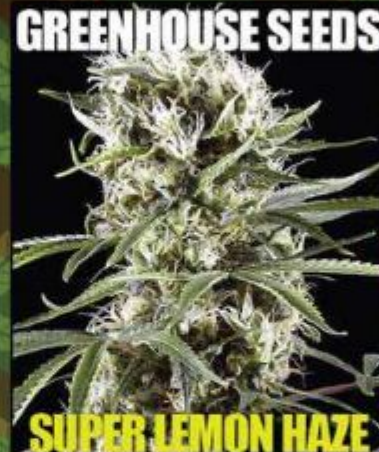
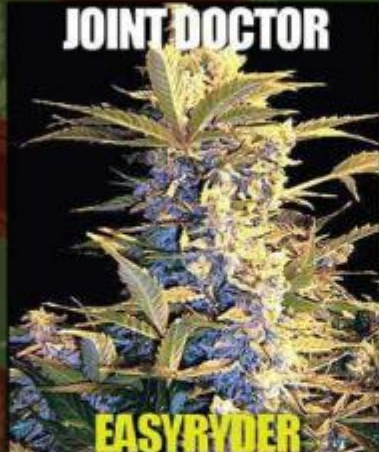
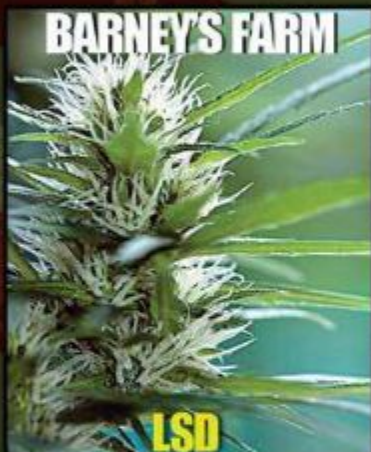
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# PHI BETA CROPPA

Pretty much everyone who's smoked pot in a college dorm room remembers that knock on the door. It was your resident advisor getting in your face that the whole corridor stunk—and saying if you got caught one more time, you'd have a date with the dean of students, or maybe even the campus police! Which pissed you off, because practically everybody on your floor was a stoner, and why were you being singled out? (RAs were always assholes.)

I went to a private Jesuit university in the Midwest, where smoking would get you a deep spiritual conversation with a priest ... talk about guilt! Then I went on to the University of Michigan, where pot possession in the town of Ann Arbor was a \$5 civil-infraction fine—really! (It's up to \$25 now.) And so I discovered the meaning of *higher* education.

Now, many years removed from college, I find it astounding how divergent our pot laws remain. In some states, you're free; in others, major jail time awaits any misstep with cannabis. Shouldn't we have made more progress by now? Thankfully, a new crop of smarter, savvier activists graduates from college every year, bringing fresh ideas to the cannabis battlefront. This new, youthful energy is already being felt, and will very likely make the battle moot in coming years.

At HIGH TIMES, we like to honor those institutions where student activism is flourishing. In this issue, you'll also find some extracurricular botany projects that you can perform discreetly in your college living quarters—while still having room to fit your desk. And when you're done cramming the last 2,000 years of history or the latest engineering algorithms into your head, you can refresh your brain with managing editor Natasha Lewin's new guide, *The HIGH TIMES Pot Smoker's Activity Book*, which is sure to earn you some extra credit—with us, at least.

Plus, Lewis Black—a huge star on campuses nationwide—checks in with his own special perspective on the current chaos.

Finally, when Thanksgiving break rolls around, treat yourself to a well-earned vacation at the 23rd Annual HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup. Cultivation editor Nico Escondido fills you in on the details, and cannabis correspondent South Bay Ray previews some great new strains on the horizon.

Sounds like a great semester ahead!



Staying stoned through college should be everyone's major!

DAN SKYE

Studiously,

*Dan Skye*  
Dan Skye  
Executive Editor

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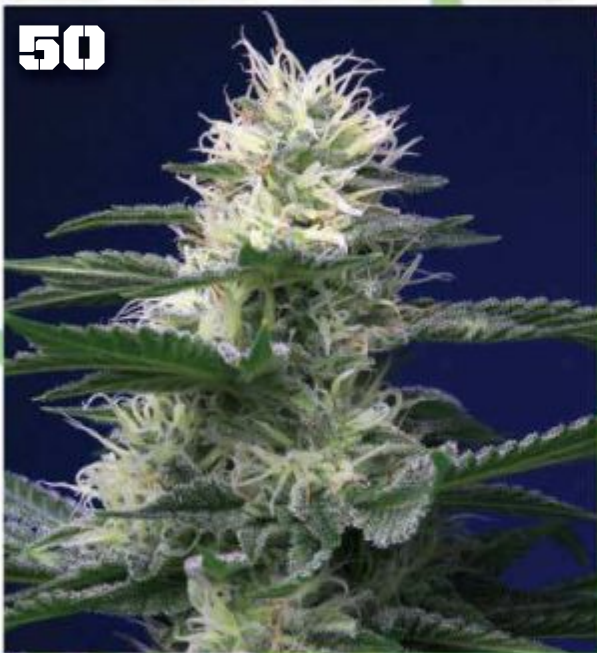


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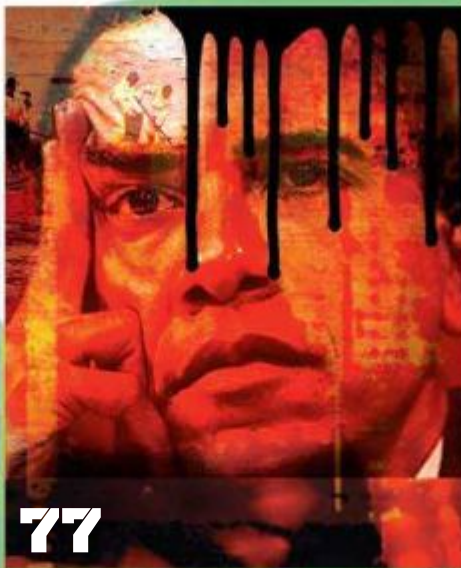
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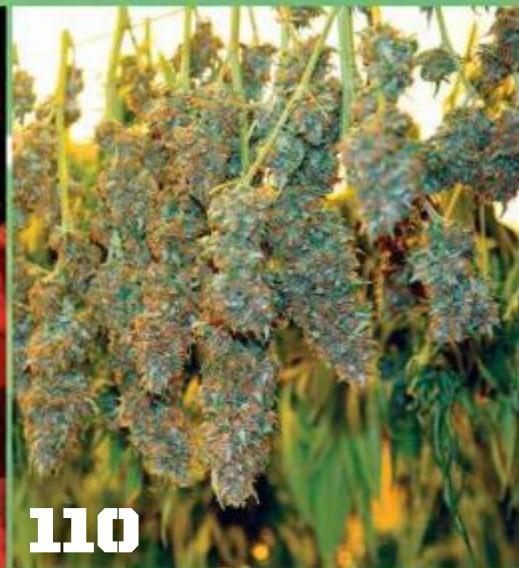




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## FEATURES

### 34 COLLEGE BUDS

BY JACK STARKS

These growers definitely have *brighter futures*. Take a look at the inner workings of college grows while earning some extra credit in vital growroom and security basics.

### 45 HIGHER EDUCATION

As America approaches a bold new era of legalization, HIGH TIMES and Students for Sensible Drug Policy proudly present our annual list of the top 20 colleges for marijuana activists.

### 50 STRAINS OF MAINE

The fiercely independent marijuana farmers of Maine continue to produce quality pot for patients, even as a controversial new cannabis-dispensary system looms. Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko and photographer Brian Jahn visit three local ganja gardens to separate fact from fiction and reveal the grow secrets of this cold and rocky coastal state.

### 60 THE HIGH TIMES CANNABIS CUP PREVIEW 2010

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

It's that time of year again: The 23rd Annual HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup is just around the corner! If you've been to Amsterdam before, or are thinking about finally making the pilgrimage to the Mecca of Pot, home to the world's foremost cannabis competition, this is the can't-miss story of the year! Nico outlines the history of the Cup and how you (the judges) sample and vote, as well as flashbacks from last year's Cup, and sneak peeks at what's to come this November. As an added bonus, we've also included a small but handy guide to a few of Amsterdam's elite coffeeshops!

### 77 OIL AND WATER

BY CHRIS SIMUNEK

HIGH TIMES visits Venice, LA, the home of a fishing community whose very existence is in peril following the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon rig. With oil hemorrhaging into the Gulf of Mexico at an incalculable rate, what fate lies in store for those who make their living from the sea?

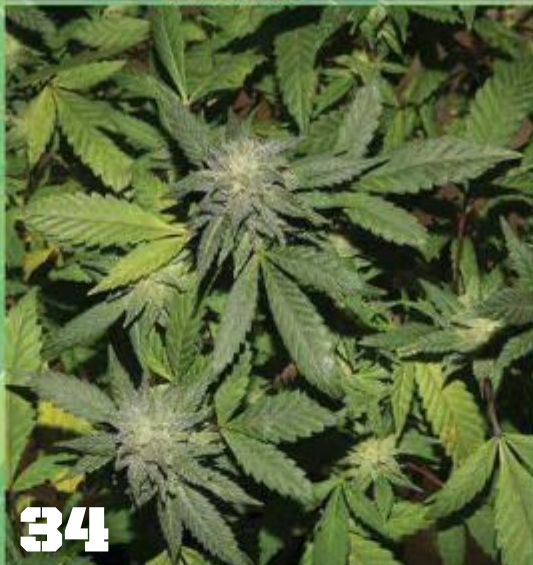
### 84 THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW: LEWIS BLACK

BY DAN SKYE

He's angry, aggravated, out of sorts—and hysterically funny! Comedian Lewis Black has become the voice of our discontent. Thank God we can laugh through the pain. Enjoy a wide-ranging conversation about America and pot.



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## DEPARTMENTS

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### 12 HIGHWITNESS NEWS/BUZZ

EDITED BY DAN SKYE

College toking; Hopper passes on; 420 Speedster; LA dispensary shutdown; High in the Rockies poll; Marijuana martial artist; Sister Mary Marijuana; Irv Rosenfeld; Rad hats; Bling for stoners; Show-buzz; *The HIGH TIMES Pot Smoker's Activity Book*; K2/Spice revealed; Snoop Dogg; High on Fire; Commander Cody; Reviews; Brain Damage Control; Band of the Month; Miss HIGH TIMES; Almost Infamous.

### 93 GROWORLD

EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO

Pix of the Crop; Cannabis Clinic; SSDP; Freedom Fighter; Ask Dr. Mitch; NORMLizer; Organic Growing; Gear/Hot Products; Munchies; Dear Danko.

### 134 NEXT MONTH

### 140 POT 40

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CENTERFOLD: FREEBIE STRAIN: PURPLE KUSH



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**FEEDBACK**

**COLLEGE HIGHS**

Are you guys planning a Back-to-School Gear Guide or looking for any cool new products to tell your readers about? Any help/info you can afford along those lines would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks in advance!

*Jenny*

You're in luck! This is our College Growing and HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup issue combined! Ask and ye shall get weed.

Hey, I just read your list of Top 10 Cannabis Colleges and Top 10 Counterculture Colleges, and I think my school, Northern Arizona University, needs at least an honorable mention on both! It's in Flagstaff, AZ, a little town of like 60,000 in the mountains of Arizona where a bunch of hippie stoners live!

*Nigel*

**HEADSHOPPING**

I was wondering if there was any way of getting back issues of the magazine. I was really interested in two, the Best of HT #52, Gear Guide 2009, and the Best of HT #54, Grow Guide 2009. I can't find them anywhere anymore—had to get a subscription, finally. If there's a way of getting those two issues, I would love to know. Thank you very much and keep up the high times you guys are having.

*Allen*

How do I get an April 2010 issue so I'm not missing it from my collection, and also get all the special issues?

*Chad*

Check out the HIGH TIMES Headshop for all your back-issue needs at [hightimes.com](http://hightimes.com)!

**OLD SCHOOL**

Happy birthday, HIGH TIMES! We love what you do! I remember reading many issues back when you first got started in the days of Colombian Gold.

*Mark Rose & Everyone @ Grateful Meds*

**ROCK'N'ROLLING**

On page 60 of your July 2010 issue, you have a photo caption that says, "When tending to his garden, Bigfoot likes to crank the Ozzy"—but in actuality, he is doing the Dio! Ozzy gave the peace symbol and Dio did the horns.

*Jay*

**THM-COOL!**

I just saw your Trans-High Market Quotations and thought it was a great idea! It's nice to see how the whole US stacks up in terms of price for a sack of bud. As more states move toward legalization for medical and recreational use, it will be invaluable to see how the prices change and the economics of it all works out. Glad to see that Portland took the cheapest spot on the list. Keep up the good work!

*CGH*



**JULY ERRATA**

There are two mistakes in the July issue that your readers need to be aware of. First, and most important, the Munchies column on the med-pot collective Counter Catering gives a recipe for a THC glycerite using "USP food-grade glycerin." This is actually two different things: USP-grade glycerin is 99.5% pure, while food-grade glycerin is 99.9%. Believe me, that 0.04% impurity is substantial and can spell the difference between a pleasant experience and explosive diarrhea.

Second, in the letters section, a reader submits a recipe consisting of "rubbing alcohol" and salt for cleaning glass pipes. Your readers should know that unless they use 91% isopropyl alcohol, after a few cleanings, a cloudy residue will accumulate on their piece(s).

There you have it: two subtle mistakes of the chemical variety, both realized harshly through personal trial and error—and by mistakenly using USP-grade glycerin as a body-building supplement.

*V.*

**GROW! GROW! GROW!**

I want to say that as a grower and aspiring breeder, I vow to use only pure landrace strains in my breeding programs and urge other breeders out there to do the same. As many of you know, cannabis genetics are getting bottlenecked, and we need new genes to be introduced. For me to put my name on a strain, it will have to be very special and "made from scratch," not from other people's strains. I hope you guys agree—and keep the breeding info coming!

*AKgrownCABreeding*

I always enjoy HIGH TIMES immensely and appreciate the depth of your articles. But right now, the world is in crisis: Global warming, a dwindling water supply, and fundamental problems with fertilizer/pesticide-based agriculture are just a few of the many problems that contribute to our global predicament. Because it will take everyone, from all walks of life, to help solve this problem, we need to start talking about it *everywhere*.

I would love to see an article on the carbon footprint of indoor vs. outdoor production, or possibly some permaculture principles involved in growing and cultivating, etc. Even better, you should dedicate a whole issue to the sustainability of hemp and weed. Today's stoners are more than just that, and being an environmental advocate is one of the traits that would resonate with your readers.

*Environmental Advocate & Stoned Youth*

**Request granted! Check out our awesome story on growing organically in this very issue (page 110).**

Send your letters to: Feedback c/o HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Email: [hteditor@hightimes.com](mailto:hteditor@hightimes.com). We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity.



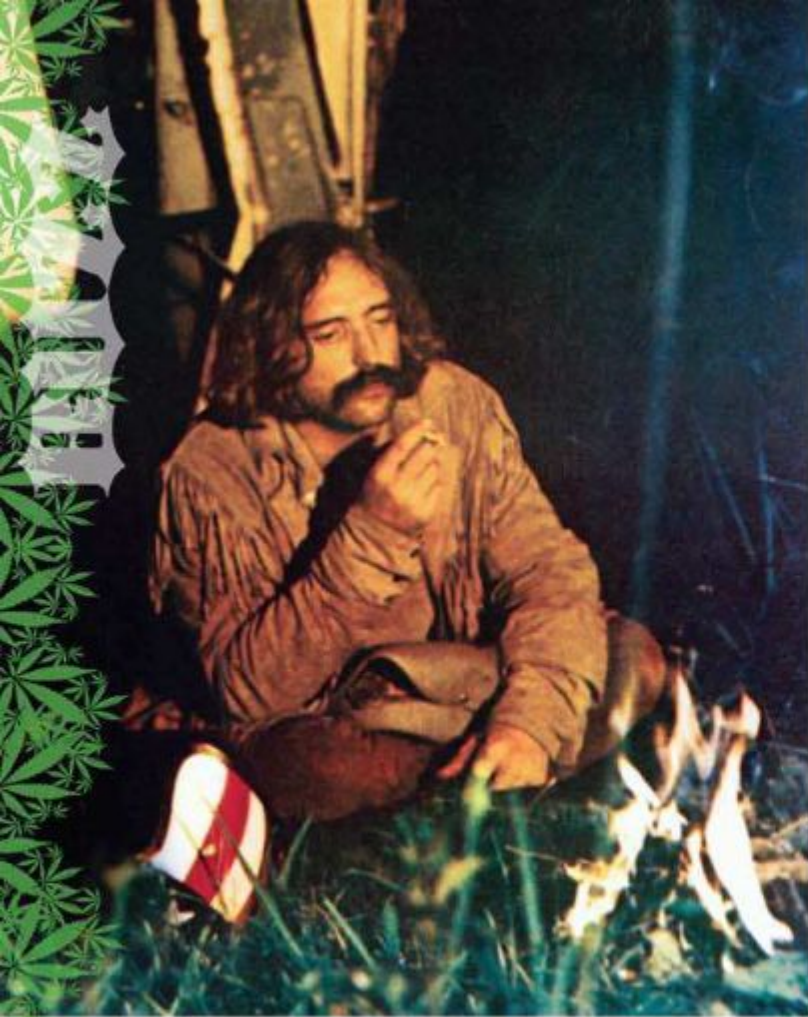
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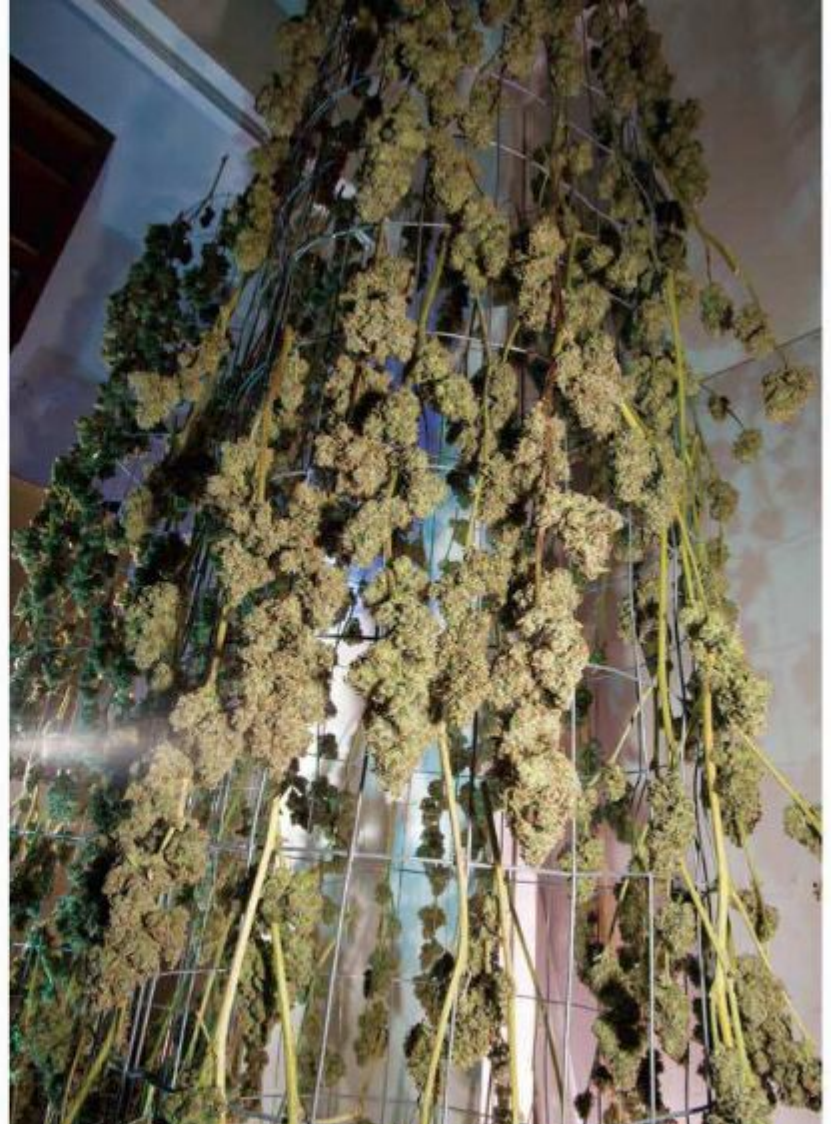
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## HOPPER RIDES OFF

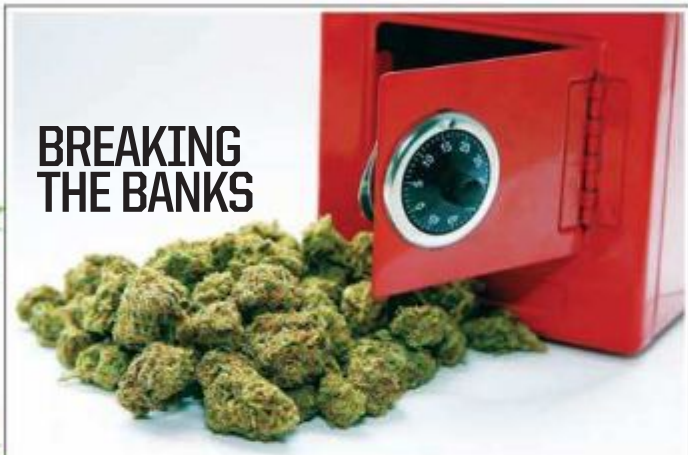
Film star Dennis Hopper passed away in May after a battle with prostate cancer. Hopper was perhaps best known for his performance in the '60s classic *Easy Rider*, which he directed and co-wrote with Peter Fonda. However, his career spanned six decades and included memorable roles in such films as *Rebel Without a Cause*, *Giant*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Blue Velvet* and *Hoosiers*, just to name a few. Hopper was an accomplished scene-stealer, often the only saving grace in dreck like *Speed* and *Waterworld*. He was also a highly acclaimed photographer, an ardent voice for civil rights, and an outspoken proponent of both marijuana and industrial hemp.



## POT & POLITICS

The California NAACP has endorsed a November ballot measure to legalize adult recreational use of marijuana, calling the measure a civil rights issue because blacks have a disproportionate number of arrests for marijuana possession compared with whites.

Now for the flip side of cannabis sanity in California. Shasta County's Sheriff budget is under duress. Staff has been cut, patrols have been reduced, and jail inmates have been released. But Shasta County has increased on pot busts. The sheriff's department reaps about half a million dollars a year in federal anti-drug funding by fighting cultivation. The majority of the funding must be used to fight pot. Marijuana may not be the county's most pressing crime problem, says Shasta County Sheriff Tom Bosenko, but "it's where the money is."



## BREAKING THE BANKS

Lending institutions like Bank of America and Wells Fargo routinely deny new accounts to businesses that deal with medical marijuana. But that may change soon. Fifteen members of Congress, led by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), delivered a letter to the Treasury Office stating: "Legitimate state-legal businesses are being denied access to banking services, which does not serve the public interest." Additionally, the letter cited "an increased risk to public safety with potential theft or robbery that any cash-only or cash-reliant business faces."

The Congressmen want the Treasury to issue "formal written guidance" assuring banks they won't be targeted for doing businesses with companies that distribute medical marijuana."

## NASCAR BURNOUT



With millions of fans, NASCAR is a logical place for the government to barge in. Unfortunately, NASCAR has gladly linked up with the Office of National Drug Policy to fight "drugged driving." Mostly, it's an anti-pot campaign. Earlier this year, NASCAR banned Cannabis Planet TV, a West Coast advocacy cable/web broadcast, from placing sponsored ads on racecars. And this past June, Randy LaJoie, a crewmember and former driver, was suspended indefinitely for testing positive for marijuana.

Perhaps NASCAR should read some of the current literature regarding pot and driving. According to a study released in March conducted by the Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center of Hartford, CT which focused on the effects of pot-smoking on driving: "Participants decreased their speed and failed to show expected practice effects during a distracted drive. No differences were found during the baseline driving segment or collision avoidance scenarios. No differences attributable to sex were observed."





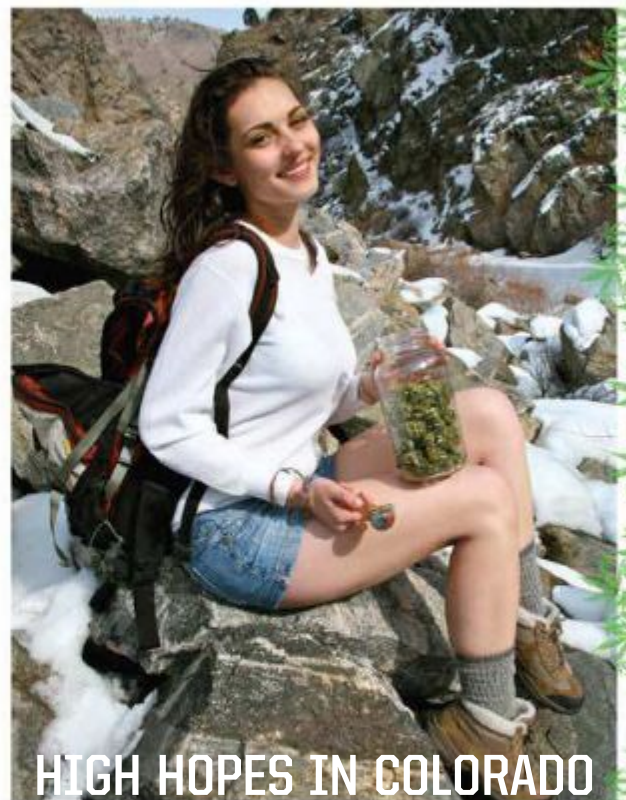
The Kinetic Grand Championship gets stoned!

## 420 SPEEDSTER

What began in 1969 as a friendly grudge match between world-renowned sculpture artist Hobart Brown and a local rival has evolved into a Humboldt County tradition drawing thousands of spectators every year. Over Memorial Day weekend, the 42nd annual Kinetic Grand Championship blazed through the county once again. Dozens of “kinetic sculptures” were entered in the three-day, 42-mile land-and-sea race.

This year, the winner of the top award for artistic achievement went to the Hookah N’ Ladder 420 Fire Engine designed by Ken Beidleman and piloted to glory by his hearty band of volunteers. It ain’t NASCAR, but this vehicle is a champion in our book!

Visit [kineticgrandchampionship.com](http://kineticgrandchampionship.com).



## HIGH HOPES IN COLORADO

Miss HIGH TIMES Brittany Wagoner recently went hiking in the *higher* elevations of Colorado. She paused briefly for a medicinal break before trudging on. She’s just one of 49 per cent of Coloradoans who now support legalizing and taxing marijuana. In fact, according to a Rasmussen poll, only 39 percent think it should remain illegal. Many believe that if California legalizes, Colorado won’t be far behind. It’s made politicians rethink their strategy going into November’s elections. Furthermore, sitting politicians may have to revise their rhetoric. Especially Sen. Scott Renfroe, (R-Greeley), who expressed his belief that Coloradoans would eventually reject legalizing marijuana, and even sanction a ban on medical marijuana dispensaries. Incidentally, Renfroe also once asked the Governor to call out the National Guard to disrupt a hemp rally. Along with recognizing that marijuana is now a mainstream, effective medicine, Coloradoans will definitely begin putting pols like Renfroe out to pasture.

## TOKIN’ THROUGH COLLEGE

Want to stay stoned and get a degree? Then follow this easy guide to a successful *higher* education!

SITUATION	YES OR NO?	REASON
While Applying	Of course!	You don’t get graded, plus you can plagiarize your essay.
At Freshman Orientation	Oh yeah!	Bring pot for everyone. Instant popularity and possible sex.
Before Class	Not right away.	Get the syllabus first. Gauge the difficulty, then drop the class if it’s too hard.
After Class	Absolutely!	You’ll feel a lot better after one of those lectures where you understand nothing.
Before Midterms	Depends on your major.	Psychology, English, Philosophy—yes. Calculus, Organic Chemistry, Quantum Physics—no.
In Your Dorm Room	Yes, but be careful.	Extra stealth required. Getting caught will get you expelled at some schools.
Before a Meal	Essential!	If you’re on the dorm meal plan, pot will help you taste, swallow and digest.
Before Finals	May as well.	If you don’t know the material at this point, you never will.
At Graduation	YEESSSSSS!	Your gown is ideal for hiding a bong.
During Grad School	Are you kidding?	If you’re in grad school, you’re well on your way to super-stoner status.



## BLESSED ARE THE GROWERS

When cops in the Masaka district of Uganda discovered a one-acre pot plantation, they stopped in at the nearby Bwanda Convent to ask a few questions. But the resident nuns were none too happy when they entered the convent without permission—one of them even got physical. (Which, of course, raises the question: “What would Jesus do if his garden got raided?” Kick some ass, apparently!) According to news reports, two of the nuns were responsible for the crop. They told the cops that they weren’t tokers and only grew the crop to feed farm animals. They also revealed that pigs were especially fond of the plant.



# RAD HATTERS

We tip our hat to Grassroots California, a rockin' clothing company whose primary objective is giving back to the community. A percentage of their profits go to organizations like NORML, the Global Fund, and Inner City Music Programs. They use their head—and so should you! Wear a Grassroots California hat. They come in a variety of styles. We especially like the homage to the Golden State featuring the iconic Great California Bear and a pot leaf. We also like the "PUFFS" hat, emblazoned with a toking buffalo. In fact, we dig 'em all! Cover your head the cool way!

Visit [grassrootscalifornia.com](http://grassrootscalifornia.com).



## THIS MONTH IN SHOWBUZZ



Go ahead and shut up!

### DOWNEY DOWNER

In a recent *Rolling Stone* interview (May '10), *Sherlock Holmes* and *Iron Man* star (and repeat rehabber) Robert Downey Jr. came out against drug legalization and railed against marijuana, calling

it "the biggest ambition crusher of them all" and referring to it as "insidious."

"Pot, for me, is, just take the sharpest table, round out the corners, and then keep wondering why you keep gouging your knees on it," Downey said. "Because you see it as something different than it is."

*Huh?* Are you sure you're sober, Rob—because it sounds like you had a relapse in the middle of that metaphor!

Seriously, *insidious*? Just because you can't handle your shit, that's no reason to besmirch one of the most beneficial plants on the planet. We shouldn't have to point out, to you of all people, that there are millions of pot smokers out there who don't do hard drugs, lead responsible lives and rarely "gouge their knees." So put that in your pipe and smoke it, Sherlock!

### MONTEL IN MAINE

At the Maine Medical Cannabis Conference at the University of Southern Maine, talk-show host Montel Williams lit a joint and took a few puffs to ease the pain he suffers from multiple sclerosis.

Williams, who was the keynote speaker at the conference, was in tears while speaking and having trouble continuing. So guess who suggested that he take up? Cumberland County Sheriff Mark Williams, who shouted: "Why don't you just take your medicine?"

The audience applauded.



Williams gets the OK.



Chace gets chased.

### TEXAS HOLD 'EM

In June, actor Chace Crawford of TV's *Gossip Girl* got busted in the parking lot of a pub in Plano, TX, after cops discovered an enormous stash of one measly joint in his car. The heart-

throb was booked and later released on a misdemeanor charge for possessing less than two ounces of marijuana. There's probably no reason to panic—it's doubtful that he'll get the maximum sentence, which is 180 days in jail and a \$2,000 fine. But a first offender can still expect probation. More of your wasted tax dollars at work, courtesy of the War on Drugs.

## BLING

### FOR YOUR BUZZ

When you're stylin', we advise decking yourself out with thematic accoutrements that demonstrate your singular stoned taste. So it's imperative you check out the incredible array of pot leaf-themed earrings, lapel pins, tie bars, pendants, and money clips from 420 Fine Jewelry, LLC. It's bud bling made with superlative craftsmanship. They're terrifically tasteful tributes to your toking lifestyle. All items are .925 Sterling Silver. A super gift for the significant stoner in your life!

Visit [420finejewelry.com](http://420finejewelry.com).

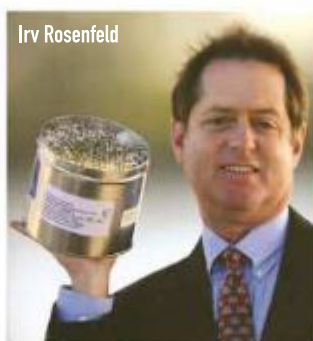
## LEGAL SMOKER/WARRIOR ADVOCATE

He has smoked over 120,000 joints in the last 28 years, all of them supplied free of charge by the federal government and with the approval of the DEA—the same guys who swear that marijuana has no medicinal value! His name is Irvin Rosenfeld, and he's one of the final four surviving patients in the National Institute on Drug Abuse's "Compassionate Care Protocol" program. (Don't bother to apply, though; the program was closed in 1992 after admitting only 13 patients, which renders the "compassionate care" part fairly meaningless.) No one has worked longer or harder to educate the public—and the government—than Irv: He's testified for patients before government and medical committees and makes frequent appearances on national news and talk shows.

Irv and his wife, Debbie, were born and raised in Virginia. In 1963, at age 10, he was diagnosed with multiple congenital cartilaginous exotosis, a rare and very painful disease that causes bone tumors. By that time, Irv had over 200 tumors growing from the long bones of his arms and legs. Repeated surgeries were needed to remove the ones that were too painful or impeded the use of his limbs. By age 13, Irv was bedridden and required home schooling. He was already on Demerol, Parafon Forte and a shot of bourbon to help him sleep. Later, he became dependent on Quaalude, Valium and Dilaudid to control the pain, before discovering the one drug that could both ease his suffering and stop the growth of his tumors—marijuana. Irv hasn't needed surgery in over 36 years and has been off the opiates for ages.

The activist community has been waiting a long time for *My Medicine*, Irv's brand-new book documenting his 10-year, often physically painful battle with the Feds to gain access to the "Compassionate Care" program. That battle continues to this day, with Irv now helping others legally obtain their medicine. Without marijuana, he would've been dead ages ago or, at the very least, bedridden and in constant, severe pain. Instead, he teaches sailing to the handicapped on Saturdays, plays softball on Sundays, and makes a damned good living as a stockbroker whose clients know that he smokes 10 joints a day ... every day.—Robert Platshorn

*My Medicine* is available at [mymedicinethebook.com](http://mymedicinethebook.com).



Irv Rosenfeld





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# WEST COAST POT PANIC



Prices for outdoor marijuana have plummeted.

In any industry, the laws of supply and demand rule. If there's too much of a desired product on the market, prices drop; if there's too little, prices rise. Apparently, California just got a refresher course in basic economics. Tolerance for medical marijuana and an influx of new growers has created a surplus of pot. Whereas a pound of could fetch \$2,500 in recent years, the price has reportedly dropped under \$2,000. In fact, some growers are willing to accept far less—\$800 per pound, in some cases.

With another record outdoor harvest projected, there is concern that the price will drop even further. However, indoor gardeners can still expect a relatively good payday. Dispensaries generally favor indoor-grown pot because of its potency and consistency.

# WAR WITHOUT END

The Civil War lasted four years, World War II took six years to end, and the Vietnam War dragged on for over a decade. Presently, we're engaged in two shooting wars in Afghanistan and Iraq—the latter now poised to enter its eighth year. But nothing compares to the War on Drugs, a 40-year saga of failure. Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske conceded as much to the Associated Press: "In the grand scheme, it has not been successful. The concern about drugs and drug problems is, if anything, magnified, intensified."

Nevertheless, the Obama administration has increased spending on interdiction and law enforcement to record levels: In 2010 they account for \$10 billion of his \$15.5 billion drug-control budget. Meanwhile, \$320 billion is spent annually to support the global drug industry—that's one percent of all commerce on the planet! But Kerlikowske says, "Nothing happens overnight. We've never worked the drug problem holistically. We'll arrest the drug dealer, but we leave the addiction."

That's right, Gil. A holistic Drug War will solve everything.

# THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU'RE HIGH ...

... without ever having to move from the couch. By Vaporella

Natasha Lewin, the stunningly beautiful managing editor of HIGH TIMES, has created what all stoners need when couchlock sets in—something to do! Whether you're fighting off paranoia, tired of staring at the ceiling, or desperately trying to occupy yourself with something other than listening to the hippie next to you wax philosophic, the *HIGH TIMES Pot Smoker's Activity Guide* has an interactive page for you.

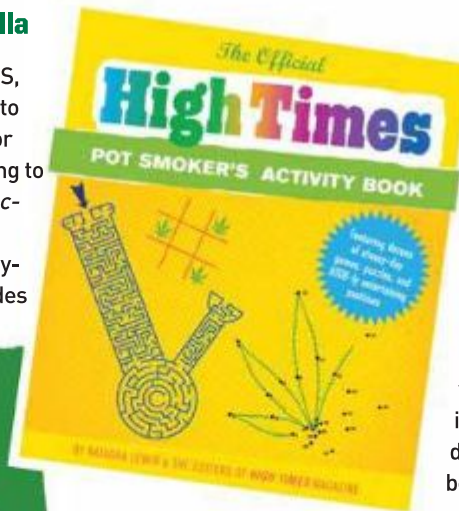
Jam-packed with mazes, crossword puzzles, Mad Libs, jokes, stoney-day ideas and more, the *HIGH TIMES Pot Smoker's Activity Guide* provides something for every toker. As the reigning queen of all things fun, I've reviewed, read and played every game in the book. And here are my thoughts:

IT'S HIGH-LARIOUS!

I haven't laughed this hard since ... well, I don't remember. But that's not because I'm a stoner. (Yes, it is.) Between all the tongue twisters and narc-narc jokes, I actually had to think! Sensi IQ questions, how-tos, creating stoner codes—it's a puzzlemaster's wet dream! Plus, just being stoned is smarts enough! Plus-plus, there's plenty to learn, read, learn, sing along to, and learn.

Some people ask me: "Vaporella, what's your favorite thing to do when high?" A good question, 'cause I have lots of favorite things—reading, sleeping, eating, watching movies, getting higher. But my absolute favorite thing to do when high used to be helping out at charities.

Used to be—because now the *HIGH TIMES Pot Smoker's Activity Guide*

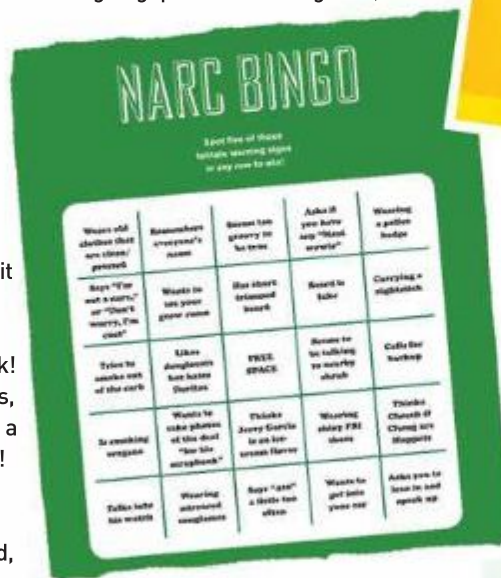


has taken its place! No longer will I donate my time and money when high; instead, now I can learn how to roll a joint with tampon papers! (Trial and error, people.) Researching taxable donations? Never again! Now I can play hours of Weedoku alone or with my friends!

It makes me feel so silly to have wasted all that precious energy helping museums, animals and the children of tomorrow. Instead, I could have been working on increasing my brain capacity with *games, games, games!*

So down with doing nothing! Up with building reverse-gravity bongs! Those folks at HIGH TIMES have really hit the nail on the head with this one. I recommend getting one for yourself and another for your closest friend. Once you have this book in hand, you'll never be bored again! On a scale of an eighth to an ounce, I give it a mind-blowing 450 tons and Vaporella's own FRESHNESS guarantee!

Suck on it, Xbox. ✨





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The media, as usual, has been quick to create panic.

User experiences with K2/Spice vary widely.



# NEW DRUGS TO DEVONIZE

WHAT ARE K2 AND SPICE? AND WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT MOUNTING A CAMPAIGN TO STAMP THEM OUT? BY MARK MILLER

From a university laboratory on the East Coast to the processing plants of the Far East, from the European party scene to the rural heartland of America, this is the story of K2 and Spice, two increasingly popular—and increasingly outlawed—psychoactive substitutes for cannabis. These related drugs are herbal smoking blends that contain a potentially dubious mix of herbs and spices sprayed with chemical compounds like JWH-018. They've been erroneously described—by the media, the government, law enforcement and on the Web—as “synthetic marijuana” when they are, in fact, completely different chemicals, at least as far as K2, the American version, is concerned. In fact, if K2 was synthetic marijuana, it could be outlawed under the Federal Analog Act. (Spice, which is sold outside the US, does contain CP 47,497, a synthetic cannabinoid.) The reasons for the misclassification could be as simple as journalistic laziness, or as complex as a hidden agenda to criminalize the chemicals used in K2.

Not only do K2 and Spice remain an enigma, but they've spawned conflicting reports among users. Some people say they're actually *better* than pot, while others have experienced highly unpleasant side effects. Still others contend that they're underrated as medications. To make matters worse, they could be banned before anyone has the chance to assess their positive and negative attributes in a clinical setting. But for the moment, while K2 and Spice remain (somewhat) legal, they're worth a closer look.

## WHAT ARE THEY?

If the chemicals used in K2 and Spice, such as the aforementioned JWH-018, aren't synthetic cannabinoids, then what are they? The best answer is that they're naphthoylindoles, a class of cannabinoid-mimicking chemicals also known as “cannabinimimetics”—a term markedly different from the “synthetic marijuana” trope that the press has systematically used.

Despite the seamy media portrayals of K2 and Spice, these chemicals weren't concocted in some trailer park, but rather in the halls of academe. Clemson University chemist Dr. John W. Huffman (hence the “JWH”) originally synthesized these compounds in 1995 to serve as chemical probes for the biological functions of CB1 and CB2 receptors in the human brain.

It took less than a decade for these compounds to escape the laboratory and start being commercially manufactured in China and Korea. Spice was first sold in 2002 in Europe and Canada, marketed as an herbal incense. Despite the manufacturer's warning against human consumption, people have been smoking it for eight years now, primarily those seeking a legal buzz without testing positive for THC (the primary psychoactive ingredient in cannabis). But Spice has also been marketed under other “flavors” far less subtle, such as Smoke and Skunk—terms way more suggestive of pot than aromatic incense.

K2, which takes its name from the famed 28,000-foot mountain (second-highest in the

world) on the border of China and Pakistan, has been sold in the US since 2006, and has become especially popular in the Midwest—perhaps because the marijuana market there is less lively than in other regions. However, K2's popularity may be extending beyond the Midwest, as Atlanta authorities have reported multiple cases of adverse side effects in people using the drug.

## EXPERT ANALYSIS

Dr. David Knoll, a pharmaceutical-sciences professor at North Carolina Central University and a contributor to ScienceBlogs.com, was interviewed at length for this article. He sounds a cautionary note.

“The JWH compounds are neither good nor bad, but I don't see any other advantage of them besides making money for those marketing the products,” Dr. Kroll states. “The compounds themselves are interesting research tools from a chemical and biological standpoint, but their safety—particularly long-term safety—has not been clearly assessed.”

Another unresolved issue: Do the so-called “herbs” and “spices” present in K2 and Spice contribute to their effects? Dr. Kroll comments: “The plant material used varies across manufacturers, but sometimes contains entheogens like *Canavalia rosea* (bay bean) and flowering ornamental plants like *Clematis vitalba*. It is not clear if any of the plants themselves have effects that enhance or add to the effects of the JWH compounds.”

There's also the question of whether or not



the plant materials listed are actually present. Lab research conducted by the German government in 2008 couldn't detect the plant ingredients supposedly used in Spice.

### USER EXPERIENCES

On the drug-info site Erowid.org, Spice users have documented their experiences with the drug. Some report a more focused, more intense, longer-lasting high than with cannabis—one that alleviated depression and produced increased sensitivity and more empathetic states of mind. There were even reports of hallucinogenic effects extending beyond cannabis's capabilities, seemingly supporting the claim that these drugs are "four times" as potent as pot.

Dr. Knoll begs to differ, however: "We have to be careful with this 'four times' number. It does not mean that JWH-018 is four times more effective than THC; instead, it means that JWH-018 binds CB1 receptors at one-fourth the concentration of THC, meaning it takes one-fourth the molecular amount of JWH-018 to bind the same number of CB1 receptors as THC. It's very difficult to make direct comparisons between cannabis and K2/Spice, as cannabis contains 50 to 60 other psychotropic compounds."

Dr. Knoll is also skeptical regarding claims that K2 and Spice are effective pain relievers. "The JWH compounds are more selective for CB1 (psychoactive) than CB2 (pain-relieving) receptors," he says. "I would not anticipate these compounds to be better analgesics than THC (equally effective on both CB1 and CB2 receptors)."

Price-wise, K2 ranges from \$30 to \$60 for three grams, a half-gram less than the traditional "eighth" of marijuana. (Dr. Knoll notes that pure JWH has been purchased over the Web.) As for the negative effects, some Spice users posting on Erowid described heart palpitations along with their paranoia. Dr. Anthony Scalzo, a professor of toxicology at St. Louis University, reported seeing over 25 cases of K2 users experiencing hallucinations, agitation and vomiting—effects rarely associated with cannabis, even among novice users.

Dr. Knoll offers the following take on the wildly divergent experiences reported by K2/Spice users: "Most of the qualitative comparisons between K2/Spice and cannabis are anecdotal and vary considerably based on a user's experience, the potency of the respective products, and the dose of active constituents in K2/Spice versus cannabis. There have yet to be any published controlled scientific studies analyzing K2/Spice effects."

### HERE COMES THE MAN

In February 2010, the DEA raided and shut down Sacred Journey, a store in the college town of Lawrence, KS, that sold K2, freezing the owner's bank accounts—even though K2 was completely legal.

In March 2010, Lake Ozark, MO, outlawed all drugs containing JWH-018 as well as JWH-073 and two other chemicals, including the main ingredient in Spice. Reports that middle-school students were smoking K2, coupled with the controversial side effects, prompted the change in the law. As of this writing, a bill to ban K2 and Spice has already breezed through both houses of the Missouri state legislature and will be presented to Governor Jay Nixon to sign.

Some local businesses won't be too thrilled, as the popularity of K2 allowed smoke shops and

**'There have yet to be any published controlled scientific studies analyzing K2/Spice effects.'**

other retailers not just to stay open, but to actually extend their hours during the winter season, when they normally close early. However, it's likely that K2's popularity is what got the local political establishment meddling in the first place.

The future of legal K2 continues to grow dimmer. Legislation was introduced in Alabama by State Representative James Gordon (D-Mobile) to add the K2 chemicals to the state's Schedule 1 list of illegal drugs, placing them in the same category as pot and LSD. The DEA's website lists the various K2 and Spice compounds on its "Drugs and Chemicals of Concern" page, a potential harbinger of their being added to the federal Controlled Substances Act. Meanwhile, Spice (the JWH compounds and CP 47,497) has already been outlawed throughout Europe and in some other countries, but remains legal in Canada and Brazil.

So while K2 and Spice may be tempting to use during dry times—and to avoid failed urine tests and trouble with the law—abstinence may still be preferable when it comes to unproven drugs of uncertain provenance. And, in any event, they may soon be illegal (and so, obviously, much harder to obtain). For those who don't have to worry about drug testing, stick with the real thing—at least until sanity prevails in our society.

Or how about this? Try analyzing and regulating these chemicals before they're sold to anyone—or denied to everyone. ✨



### NOT THE SPICE OF LIFE

Last year, after 39 years, I gave up smoking marijuana regularly. Ever since then, I've been the HIGH TIMES guinea pig, a relatively fresh psyche upon which new methods of fine-tuning reality can be tested. When we began looking into the K2/Spice phenomena, a question arose: Would this synthetic THC analogue register positive on a drug test? I volunteered, eager to add yet another wing to my multi-room mansion of psychedelic experience.

We bought two home drug-test kits at the local pharmacy, and I passed the first whiz quiz with flying colors. Then I sat down with a small vial of blueberry-flavored Spice and took my first bong rip in nine months. The initial effects quickly washed over me kindly—that old familiar glibby feeling, not unlike the sensation strong weed produces.

However, I had no tolerance whatsoever. The effects were very pronounced, and yet I requested: "Give me another!" which kicked me into a super-stoned state. Then I took a third bong hit—that was a mistake.

The room stretched out like stars in a warp drive. Conversation became instantly difficult, then slid to impossible. Paranoia hit hard and a thick cloud muddled my thoughts. My body became heavy and a vague nausea roiled my stomach. The next few minutes seemed like hours, and I had to muster all of my will power just to get up and go into another room to be alone. As a veteran psychonaut, I knew that if I just waited long enough, I would come down. But eternity was now the enemy.

Someone peeked in to check up on me. I started to speak, but suddenly, violently threw up. I vomited three times—once for each bong hit—but felt much better. I lay down on the floor and waited for reality to return; it arrived three hours later. After I came down, I took the second drug test and came up negative again.

So now we know: You can smoke Spice and pass a drug test. But the larger question remains: Why would you want to? —Rick Cusick



Spice even looks like pot.



Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at [hightimes.com](http://hightimes.com).

CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$334** (last month: \$383; YTD: \$358)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$413** (\$434, \$425)

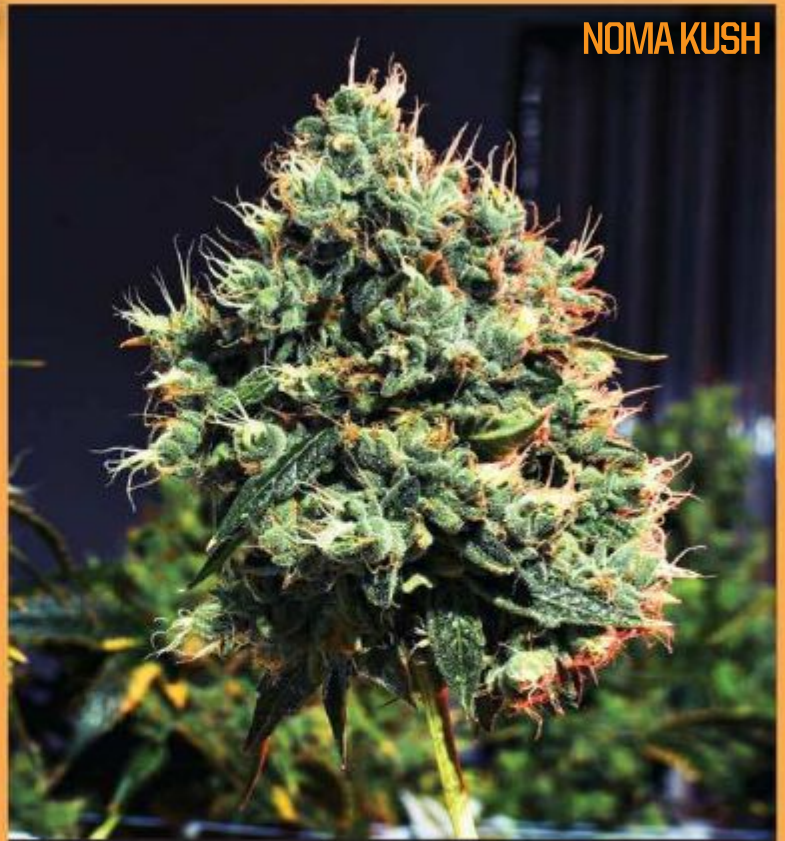
CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$265** (\$286, \$278)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$84** (\$100, \$95)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Tuscaloosa	Headband Kush Nebula	\$550 \$450
CALIFORNIA	Inland Empire Lake Elsinore Lake Tahoe	OG Kush	\$375
		Jacky White	\$375
		UK Cheese	\$260
		Purple Urkel	\$240
	San Jose	Headband Kush	\$240
		Chocolope	\$350
		Grapefruit Haze	\$350
	Truckee	Sensi Star	\$200
Blue Dream	\$250		
FLORIDA	Ft. Lauderdale	Sweet Tooth	\$450
		White Widow	\$400
		Blackberry Kush	\$500
	Orlando	Juicy Fruit	\$360
		Trainwreck	\$300
		Jamaican Mids	\$120
GEORGIA	Atlanta	Sour Diesel	\$400
		Granddaddy Purps	\$350
LOUISIANA	Baton Rouge	Mr. Nice Sour Cream	\$400 \$450
MAINE	Portland	Chocolope	\$325
MASSACHUSETTS	Wellfleet	Chemdog Double Diesel	\$480
MICHIGAN	Roseville	Blueberry	\$475
MINNESOTA	Stillwater	Bubblegum	\$500
		Hindu Kush	\$400
MONTANA	Helena	Headband	\$250
		Super Lemon Haze	\$250
NEVADA	Reno	Granddaddy Purple	\$350
NEW YORK	Jamestown	Blueberry	\$300
		Trainwreck	\$400
		Diesel	\$400
NORTH CAROLINA	Asheville	Bubblicious	\$425
		Cheese	\$400
OREGON	Cottage Grove	Super Lemon Haze	\$360
SOUTH CAROLINA	Gresham Marion	Pot of Gold	\$425
		Lemon Diesel	\$425
TENNESSEE	Memphis	Blue Dream	\$350
		White Widow x OG Kush	\$500
TEXAS	El Paso	Romulan	\$350
		Purple Bubba Kush	\$400
WASHINGTON	Bellingham Seattle Spokane	Jack Herer	\$280
		Sour Diesel	\$300
		Strawberry Cough	\$260
		Master Kush	\$300
WISCONSIN	Fond du Lac	NL #5 x Trainwreck	\$375

**INTERNATIONAL** (prices listed in Australian or Canadian dollars):

AUSTRALIA	Sydney	Kong	Au\$320
CANADA	Grand Prairie Nova Scotia Toronto Winnipeg	Purple Kush	C\$260
		Chocolope	C\$185
		G-13	C\$250
		Bubble Hash	C\$400



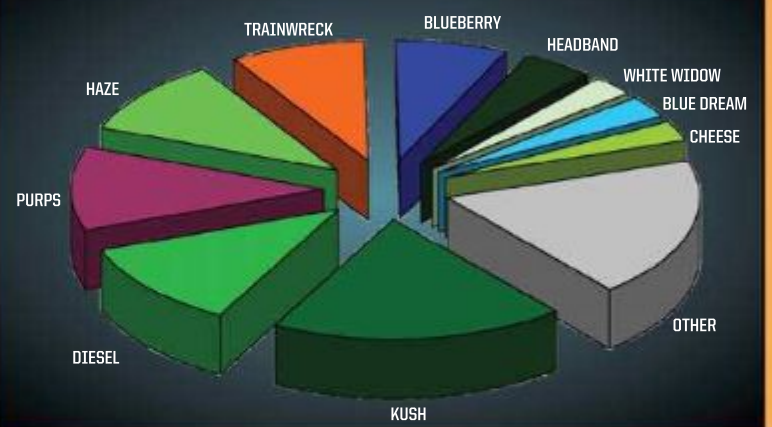
## MARKET ANALYSIS

Kush took the top pot spot in October, once again edging out both Diesel and Purps in the total number of submissions. Interestingly, the top five submitted strains of the month are the very same strains—in the very same order—as September's top five. However, most of the top five strains dropped in average price (the only exceptions were Purps and Trainwreck), with Kush and Haze experiencing the biggest average price drops from September (Kush, -\$44; Haze, -\$41). The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$373), Diesel (\$407), Purps (\$384), Haze (\$322) and Trainwreck (\$356).

**Index Watch:** It's a buyer's market! All indices finished below their previous-month and year-to-date averages, with the US Price Index dropping \$49 from September.

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

## STRAIN SUBMISSIONS OCTOBER 2010



### Kong - \$320

Sydney, AUSTRALIA

"Got the Kong from a friend in South Africa. This is the first time I've grown it, and it absolutely wrecked me! This is now my evening smoke, because it's way too much for the daytime. However, at night it's just what the doctor ordered."

### Sour Cream - \$450

Baton Rouge, LOUISIANA

"Very slow-growing and slow-budding, with an amazing end result. Don't let it fool you; it's a potent smoke with a skunky diesel smell. You can definitely see both the G-13 Haze and Sour Diesel traits in this little hybrid."

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A close-up photograph of Snoop Dogg. He is wearing a black t-shirt and a gold chain. He is holding a blunt in his mouth and lighting it with a lighter. He has a focused expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# BLUNTOLGY 101

**SNOOP DOGG SHOWS YOU HOW TO WRAP DA BIZUD. BY MAGGIE ST. THOMAS**

Reading the paper a couple months back, I saw that Snoop Dogg was going to be playing locally, at the Galaxy Theatre in Santa Ana, CA. This was my opportunity to finally meet the master rapper himself and ask him to show me his famous blunt-rolling technique. Having heard through the airwaves that Snoop was a fan of Purple *Indica*, I acquired some fine specimens of this potent strain on the Westside. I had a plan, and now I put it in motion.

At 10:23 a.m., I arrived at my destination: the parking lot of the Galaxy Theater. It was pouring rain, giving the empty lot a feeling of desolation. I settled in for a long wait. I had brought along a vintage HIGH TIMES (circa 1996) to read, and I also had various forms of medical marijuana to help me pass the time—first a medicated lollipop, then a few bowls and joints, all compliments of my friends at the connoisseur lounge P.O.T.. The sound of the rain upon my windows became hypnotic.

As I was enjoying my buzz, I suddenly counted 14 police cars that had arrived en masse in the parking area—including K9, the Gang Unit and paramedics—in preparation for Snoop's concert. Rumor had it this former Crips member had even requested that the Galaxy's drinking cups be blue (instead of their usual red) for his performance.

At 3:30 p.m., I recognized some people I hadn't seen since the Smokeout, who were working as his roadies. We got together and shared a smoke, and I mentioned how I'd been anxiously waiting in the rain in hopes of meeting Snoop. They managed to score me a ticket and a photo pass, and told me to pick them up at the "will call" window after 7 p.m.!

At 7:20 p.m., I entered the Galaxy Theatre and easily floated past security (thanks to a hidden compartment in my leather jacket). I had my camera (thanks to the photo pass), a handful of Swisher Sweet cigars, my 1996 issue of HIGH TIMES, and my faith that I would get to Snoop. But how? Simple—I would enlist the power of the weed!

I took my place in the photo pit and, while the opening act was still on-stage, decided to unleash the power: I removed that gorgeous Purple *Indica*-Darth Vader nug from its medical dram and was immediately spotted

by the Snoop Dogg posse. With gleaming eyes, they escorted me backstage, and I was soon introduced to Snoop's personal security and cover artist, Mr. Joe Cool. I told him I had a gift for the Dogg. He asked me what it was, and his eyes bulged when I showed him. He said, "Please wait right here," and took off in the direction of Snoop Dogg's tour bus. He quickly returned and said that Snoop had requested the pleasure of my company immediately after the show.

Sure enough, after Snoop Dogg's live set, I was escorted to the green room and introduced to the Boss Dogg himself. He was very kind, well-spoken, full of respect toward me and, as I expected, quite the gentleman. I asked him if he would speak with me for about 15 minutes and perhaps enjoy smoking some weed while I interviewed him, and he cheerfully agreed.

"It's a pleasure to meet you, the Godfather of Rap and an avid marijuana supporter," I began. "Can you tell me what you think of our current situation regarding the laws on the legalization of marijuana?"

"I think the current marijuana laws are great!" Snoop said. "I think we need more of them, in the beneficial way of us having marijuana legalized—because when it's legalized, there is less crime, there is more understanding, more harmony, more peace, more unity. One thing about marijuana: It brings people together."

"Absolutely!"

"Me and you coming together behind this, this is the main focal point," Snoop continued. "You knew if you had something great like this"—here he held up my Purple *Indica*-Darth Vader offering by its stem—"you could get through the walls of security, get into my attention realm, my span and my space, to where you would be able to get an interview, some pictures and a chance to meet me, the great Snoop Dogg."

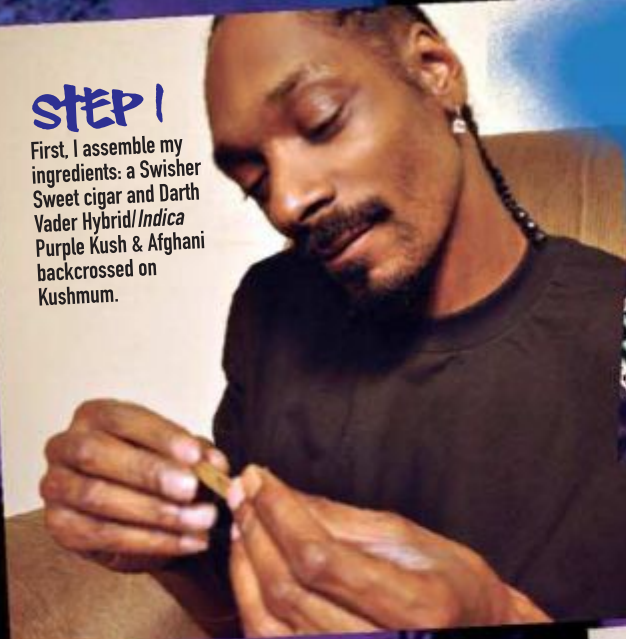
As Snoop marveled over this fine specimen of genetically engineered bud, I asked him if he would share with me and the readers of HIGH TIMES how to roll a blunt Doggy-style.

"First thing," he began, "I always use a Swisher Sweet ...."



## STEP 1

First, I assemble my ingredients: a Swisher Sweet cigar and Darth Vader Hybrid/Indica Purple Kush & Afghani backcrossed on Kushmum.



## STEP 2

Next, I split the Swisher Sweet cigar down the middle with my thumbnails.



## STEP 3

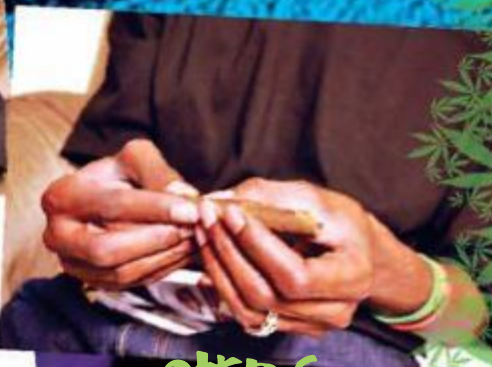
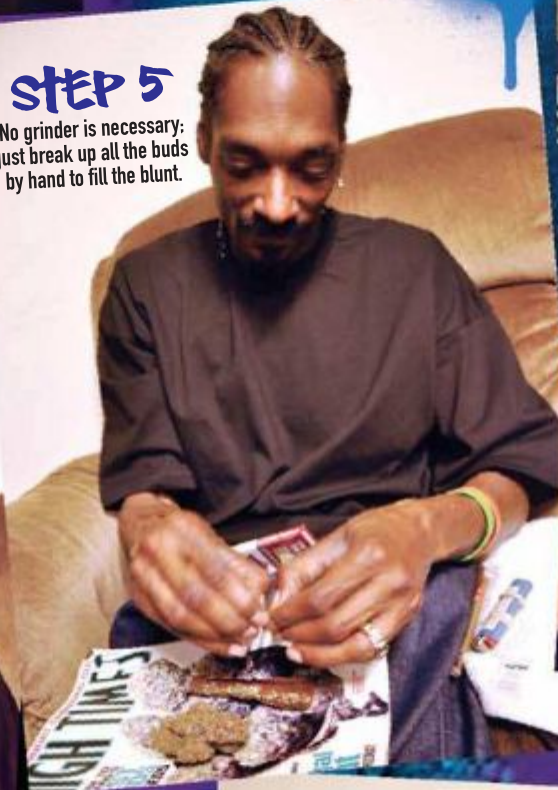
Then I remove all tobacco in the cigar.

# HOW TO ROLL A BLUNT DOGGY-STYLE

BY SNOOP DOGG

## STEP 5

No grinder is necessary: just break up all the buds by hand to fill the blunt.



## STEP 6

Use your thumbs to hold the blunt in place and get that nice tuck.

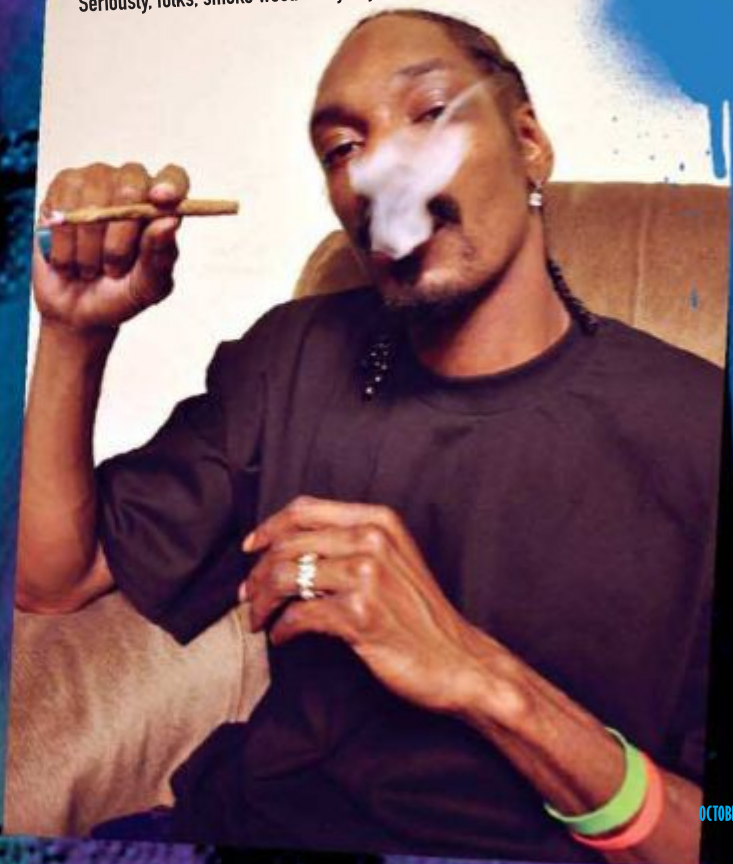
## STEP 4

When the tobacco is gone, I moisten the wrap with my tongue, then flip it around and continue to moisten the same side of the wrap to ensure the blunt doesn't crack.



## STEP 8

Seriously, folks, smoke weed every day!



## STEP 7


Light it up, pass it and repeat.



Later that night, 4:20 a.m., I received a text message on my phone from the Boss Dogg himself: "Nice 2meet u. Thanx for da bizud." Smiling to myself, I immediately flashed back to Snoop's message on the power of marijuana to bring people together. To think that I didn't even have a ticket, yet I was able to enjoy a fabulous show and meet one of the most incredible performers in music today, the Doggfather.

Never underestimate the power of marijuana! 🌿





In 1995, the trio headed off to a pot farm in Northern California's Sierra Nevada Mountains to record their magnum opus, a 64-minute album-long track entitled "Dopesmoker."

# STILL HIGH

Matt Pike, high on something akin to fire.

**Sleep's not quite over, but Matt Pike keeps the fire burning. By Chris Parker**

Matt Pike might be High on Fire these days, but he was getting high on something else a decade ago, porting the leaden riffs of stoner/doom-metal pioneers Sleep. Formed in 1989 in San Jose, CA, the trio crafted trudging, droning tracks that crept like a malevolent, enveloping fog with punishing throb and shadowy, rafter-rattling depth. Inspired by bands like Neurosis, St. Vitus and the Melvins, among others, Sleep were instrumental in giving birth to a scene that grew even larger in their absence, including such lumbering cognoscenti faves as Sunn O))) and Boris.

Pike's grandfather and uncle played guitar, which fueled his fascination for the six-string at an early age. A delinquent who bounced from juvie hall to military school, Pike set out for California when he came of age. Once there, he joined Abestosdeath, which he describes as a "dark, dirgey, crusty punk band." The group included bassist Al Cisneros and drummer Chris Haikus, who would become the rhythmic backbone of Sleep. Pot was central to their existence and ethos; they smoked copious quantities out of a chalice-like bong made from a coconut. "All we did was smoke pot all day," Pike says now while riding around Atlanta with Mastodon's Brent Hinds, during a break in their tour with Dethklok. "I got Al to start smoking pot. He was kind of straight-edge when I met him—then, once I turned him onto it, Al turned into a monster."

With their second album, *Sleep's Holy Mountain* (1993), the band achieved huge cult status—enough to attract a big-money offer from the UK's London Records. In 1995, the trio headed off to a pot farm in Northern California's Sierra Nevada Mountains to record their magnum opus, a 64-minute album-long track entitled "Dopesmoker," which preached a philosophy similar to Timothy Leary's "Tune in, turn on, drop out," advising listeners to "follow the smoke towards the riff-filled lands."

"It says 'Drop out of life with bong in hand.' It's kind of what I did," Pike laughs.

Though Sleep told their label of their intention to record an album consisting of a single track, London balked when it was brought to them, and the company also refused to release the band's reworked 52-minute version.

"They tried to make edits, but, dude, you *can't* make a four-minute edit out of any riff in that song—it's the same riff over and over!" Pike recalls with amusement. "They should've just played that on the radio: *Thrum ... thrum ...* 'It's a one-hit wonder from Sleep!'"

The album would eventually come out on another label as *Jerusalem* (split into six songs against the band's wishes), before being released in its intended form under the original name in 2003—five years after the band had broken up.

But last May, Sleep reunited for two sets (and lots of bong hits) as part of the UK festival All Tomorrow's Parties: "Someone offered us a shit-ton of money," Pike explains. He and Cisneros remain in touch, and there are rumors of a US tour in the fall of 2010.

Meanwhile, Pike's busy fronting High on Fire, which he began a dozen years ago in the wake of Sleep's dissolution. More propulsive and less droning than Sleep, High on Fire still occupy a smoky, throbbing headspace, only more aggressive, in the vein of contemporary stoner-metal acts like Acid King, Witch and Mastodon. The rhythms chug like a locomotive of sludge, and Pike's guitar wails intricate, cloud-forming leads.

They've recently released their fourth and most accomplished studio album, *Snakes for the Divine*. It's out on the world's largest independent label, E1 Music (formerly Koch Records), as part of a joint venture with Epic. It promises to expose even more ears to HoF's thundering rumble.

"I just wanted to do something bigger and better, and I wanted to get paid for it one day," Pike says, admitting that he'd like to make the same jump his buddy Hinds has made with Mastodon. "I hope I can play music to more people—I already have a good feeling about this, which is killer." ✨



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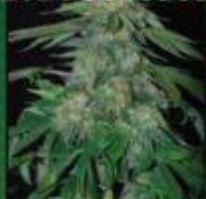
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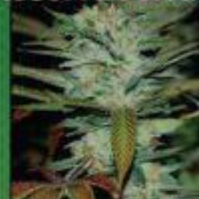
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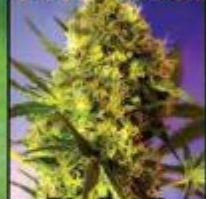
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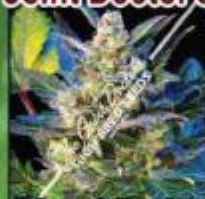
Purple Pineberry

Sweet Seeds



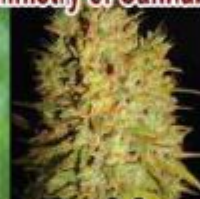
Big Devil

Joint Doctor's



Diesel Ryder

Ministry of Cannabis



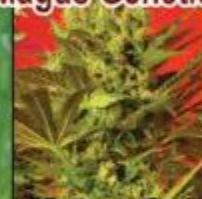
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When Commander Cody formed the Lost Planet Airmen in the late '60s the band was initially paid in weed.



# LOST IN THE OZONE

'Headneck' rocker Commander Cody still lives the high life. By Michael Simmons

"I'm more of an artist who plays piano than anything else," explains Commander Cody over the phone from his home in Saratoga Springs, NY. In keeping with his immersion in the bohemian milieu, espresso was his early drug of choice back in art school in 1962. There would be others over the years, but much like his lifelong love affair with art, the Commander still chugs the heavily caffeinated murk.

He's a busy man these days, hence the need for "liquid speed," as he calls it. Cody, born George Frayne 66 years ago, co-founded Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen with Bill Kirchen, Andy Stein, John Tichy, Billy C. Farlow and others in the late '60s (the band was initially paid in grass). Their debut album, *Lost in the Ozone*, was released in 1971 and became an instantaneous stoner classic. While they were lumped in the vague category of country-rock, they sounded nothing like the mellow-as-cello lames labeled likewise. Proclaimed "#1 Live Band in the World" by *Billboard International* in 1975-6, the Lost Planet Airmen were the "headneck" kings of the '70s, mixing rockabilly, western swing and honky-tonk music, and anchored by Frayne/Cody's boogie-woogie piano pounding. And when they played country music, they were closer to Merle Haggard and Jerry Lee Lewis than the Eagles. An early fave, "Seeds and Stems (Again)," is a perfect example: If you don't pay attention to the lyrics, it sounds like an authentic Texas roadhouse weeper. A closer listen reveals a lament about an

empty stash box (those were the pre-sinsemilla days, kids). Their ode to breaking speed limits, "Hot Rod Lincoln," became a Top 10 hit, while the album's title song, "Lost in the Ozone," celebrated the transformative therapeutics of getting fucked up.

Cody has always been fascinated with getting high, a passion that began with his childhood pre-occupation with aircraft. His father was a bomber pilot in World War II, who'd gift his six-year-old son with a monthly copy of the *Royal Air Force Flying Review*. "My childhood hobby turned into a nightmare," Cody recalls fondly. "I've got the biggest scrapbook collection on the planet—210 binders full of nothing but pictures of airplanes." He combined this passion with his other two loves—art and music—and the Commander Cody aesthetic was hatched. "My master's degree is in sculpture," he says, "and beautiful airplanes are flying pieces of sculpture." The original Lost Planet Airmen broke up in '77, but Cody continues to record and tour with the Commander Cody Band (83 gigs in 2009), as well as maintaining an extraordinarily prodigious output of paintings and sculpture. His new coffee-table tome, *Art, Music & Life* (Q Book Press), collects this work,

thematically tied together with the red, white and bluesy iconography of old planes, cars and trucks, old movies, old jazzbos. Like his sonic art, his visual work celebrates his deep, abiding love for a fading America of big dreams and cool myth. It's a big *fuck you* to the gen-trification leeching the soul from



**'When were you busted?'**  
**I ask. 'Which time?'**  
**Cody asks back.**  
**'How many times**  
**have you been busted?'**  
**I respond. 'For what?'**  
**Cody counters.**

the American landscape.

Interspersed throughout are portraits of and war stories about Jerry Garcia, Hunter Thompson, Willie, Waylon and Miles, as well as His Airmen. (Best anecdote: how Louis Armstrong got Richard Nixon to carry his cannabis-stuffed trumpet through customs.) Unlike some dilettantes with a hobby, Cody is one musician who—much like Garcia himself—could have had an acclaimed art career had he chosen to focus solely on that. His paintings and drawings boast a command of color and subtle shading, while his sculpture makes use of scrap metal, analogous to the way he breathes life into the old with his music.

Cody's love affair with marijuana began in 1965 when his brother "packed some reefer into my cheeseburger. I got high as a lord—I didn't have a drink for two years! I wound up smuggling hashish." He credits their proudly cannabinoided vibe for the Airmen's popularity.

"Everyone knew we were smokin' pot. 'Lost in the Ozone'—*hello?* You'd smoke reefer and listen to the Commander Cody band," he says, adding in a villainous voice: "*My plan from the very beginning—turn everybody on!*"

His latest album is *Dopers, Drunks and Everyday Losers* (Blind Pig Records) and, as its handle suggests, it pays homage to the Commander's soft spot for the wild side of life. It also serves as a reminder that Cody was Americana before the genre had a name. Truck-driving and drinking songs—and at least three pot tunes, including "Roll Yer Own"—join wry road tales like "They Kicked Me Out of the Band." It's also further proof that the Commander is one of the living giants of boogie-woogie piano, an immortal style that encompasses hotshots from Pinetop Smith to Jerry Lee Lewis.

Cody calls *Art, Music & Life* his "White Volume"—"the nice stories"—and he's working on its sequel, the "Black Volume," which will contain "the nasty stuff, the dark side—serious addictions, sexual encounters, guns pulled on me in bathrooms, escapes from the law, getting busted." This piques my interest. "When were you busted?" I ask. "Which time?" Cody asks back. "How many times have you been busted?" I respond. "For what?" Cody counters. I laugh at this exchange with the man whose musical proclamation—"I ain't never had too much fun"—nutshells a life dwelt on the edge. As the Commander insists: "They're gonna have to drag me kicking and screaming into the old folks' home." ✨



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# THE ASTONISHING TERRY SOUTHERN

**Terry Southern and the American Grotesque**

**David Tully**

(McFarland & Company)



One of the most original voices of 20th-century “quality lit,” the late Terry Southern set out to, as he put it, “astonish,” “upset complacency” and “make it hot for them” with classic novels (*The Magic Christian*, *Flash and Filigree*), screenplays (*Dr. Strangelove*, *Easy Rider*), short stories, essays and journalism. He also reinvented high-brow pornography with books like *Candy* and *Blue Movie* and became a transcendent interviewee and counterculture celebrity (even landing on the cover of *Sgt. Pepper*). Southern pushed the envelope of reality while always maintaining a degree of naturalistic credibility.

There have been a handful of fine books about him already, but David Tully has written the first that focuses primarily on the oeuvre of a man who was often thought of as a wild-worded prankster, but who was, more substantively, one of the finest literary craftsmen and thinkers in the US. Given access to the master’s archives and unpublished texts for a doctoral thesis, Tully got ‘a degree in Terry Southern,’ as son Nile Southern bemusedly points out in his foreword. His thorough research paid off: Tully traces Southern’s work chronologically, from the early days in his home state of Texas to his time in Paris and New York (where, inspired by Poe and Hawthorne and pot and jazz, he wrote extraordinary, brutally



Southern outside Gaudi’s Sagrada Família Cathedral, Barcelona, Spain

honest, hysterically funny fiction), his explosive success in Hollywood (where he became a symbol of the freedom of the ‘60s), and his decline in popularity (which lasted, painfully, for the final 25 years of his life).

Tully examines this downward slide and the reasons why—despite his critical honors and initial commercial success—Southern isn’t as well known these days. He maintains that Southern’s tendency to riff at the expense of storytelling diminished the power of his later work and that, towards the end, the writer was recycling himself. But there were other factors as well—including an increasingly jaded and dumbed-down society for whom the *Magic Christian*’s satirical visions became tragicomic reality in Reagan’s America—and lost some edge in the process—didn’t help either.

In Southern’s classic short story “Red-Dirt Marijuana,” the young protagonist’s older black mentor, C.K., hips the kid to the wonders of “mighty fine gage.” When the subject of pot’s illegality is broached, C.K. explains that, when a man is high, he sees “right through everything,” something those in charge can’t allow. David Tully has delivered a first-rate overview of the astonishing Terry Southern—a man who, whatever his flaws, took an unflinching look at human foibles and hypocrisies and saw right through everything.—**Michael Simmons**

## MIKE PATTON

*Mondo Cane*

(Ipecac Recordings)



Mike Patton, the man of a thousand voices, has done it all: hard rock (Faith No More), wacko experimental (Mr. Bungle), scream electronica (Fantômas), funk lounge (Lovage) and rap (General Patton vs. the Executioners). On *Mondo Cane*, he takes the Italian language to a whole new eclectic level with an album of ‘60s and ‘70s Italian pop. Backed by a 40-piece orchestra and choir, Patton offers his take on such famous arrangements as Gino Paoli’s “Senza Fine,” spaghetti-western composer Ennio Morricone’s “Deep Down” (from the film *Danger: Diabolik*) and a number of other Italian songwriters.

The 11 songs on *Mondo Cane* were taken from previous recordings of live performances, then arranged in the studio with a full band, resulting in a hauntingly beautiful CD. I only wish they’d put *Mondo Cane* on vinyl for collectors of Italian pop dorks like me. (Plus, the album art is badass.)

A huge fan of Italian culture, Patton learned the language after getting married to artist Titi Zucattosta and performs the album entirely in his adopted tongue. There’s no language barrier here, however, since Patton is a musician who crafts with sounds and music rather than words, stretching his vocal talents into high falsettos and low, deep baritones. The album’s truly a pleasure to listen to and even play repeatedly, since the tones—not the lyrics—will have you humming along.

Mike Patton has once again successfully strayed far from the norm and bared his masterful voice in such a humbling and adventurous way that you’ll find yourself craving *Mondo Cane* regularly. *Dio vi benedica, Michele!*—**Natasha Lewin**



## NEVERMORE

*The Obsidian Conspiracy*

(Century Media)



Seattle’s primary contribution to rock was early-’90s grunge, but there’s always been a generosity of genres in the Emerald City, including longstanding metal bands like Nevermore. Formed by members of defunct ‘80s Seattle thrashers Sanctuary, Nevermore have never even come close to grunge in all these years. So what are they—thrash? Prog? Symphonic metal? The correct answer is “all of the above” and a little more on their latest, *The Obsidian Conspiracy*, which is also a concept album—the kind of self-conscious ambition that was always way too geeky for flannel-clad slackers.

Jeff Loomis’s spiraling guitar kicks off the album with “The Termination Proclamation,” and the ominous subject matter asserts itself immediately. The music throughout *Obsidian* is generally top-shelf, with a deft use of acoustic elements flanking the head-rushing charges. Warrel Dane’s vocals, on the other hand, are a bit more hit-and-miss—sometimes overbearing, at other times a fitting augmentation. “The Blue Marble and the New Soul” sees the theatrical Dane going over the top to distracting effect, but by “The Day You Built the Wall,” his sinister offerings mesh with the band’s orchestral wallop.

The title track, “The Obsidian Conspiracy,” is an impressive send-off, with pounding thrash from drummer Van Williams and turn-on-a-dime riffing from Loomis, capped by an absolutely perfect final vocal touch courtesy of Dane. Most grunge bands never ended their albums this creatively, but they were always too cool (or too busy nodding) to care. Fortunately, Nevermore ain’t hip, just a damn good metal band.—**Mark Miller**



## THE IMPERIAL DOGS

*Live! In Long Beach*

(October 30, 1974)

(theimperialdogs.com)



Back in the early ‘70s in Cali’s South Bay/LA region, there was a teen-beat combo called the Imperial Dogs, a bunch of pot-smoking, pre-punk rockhounds. At the time, LA was known as the “center of the music industry,” but you couldn’t get the time of day unless you were a proven, chart-topping phenom. Even so, there were plenty of bands slogging away in LA, and the Imperial Dogs—fronted by veteran rock scribe Don Waller—have now issued a sublime DVD that documents one of their few live performances from those halcyon days and offers serious proof of the band’s preeminence in the rock-to-punk missing-link stakes.

Delivered in widescreen, grainy mono straight off the Betamax camera’s mike, the DVD captures the tight, brute force of the Dogs’ wicked charisma in defiantly raucous tunes like “Amphetamine Superman,” “Midnite Dog,” “Intensity 2.5,” “Loud, Hard & Fast,” not to mention Waller’s quasi-infamous “This Ain’t the Summer of Love” (later borrowed and remodeled by Blue Oyster Cult for a semi-big, semi-chart-topping smasheroo). It all comes off as a shockingly badass affair thanks to the band’s maverick (at the time) aesthetic: a metallic, bluesy, post-Standells/pre-Ramones mishmash of Mott the Hoople, New York Dolls, Stooges and the MC5. The Dogs’ explosive rock mess lacked only someplace to prove that it really was possible to rock the fuck out in a different, funny, threatening, gnarly, streetwise and entirely non-bland way before the whole punk-rock thing exploded in ‘77 and ‘78. Interesting, to say the least!—**John Payne**







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# BEHIND BARS FOR BUDS

With the push for legalization, amnesty becomes an issue.

By Paul Krassner

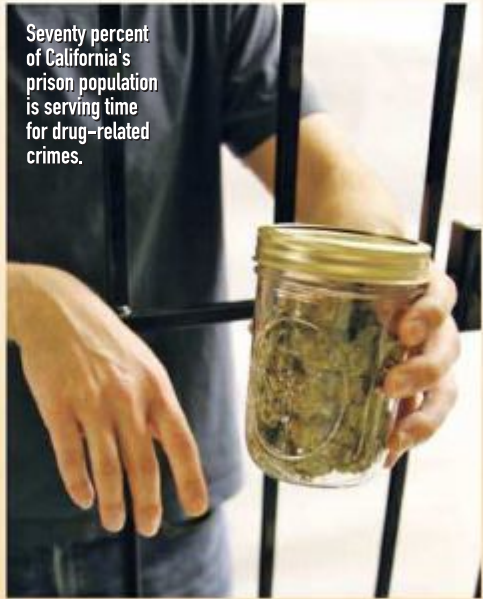
It's really ironic that California Assemblyman Tom Ammiano's current bill to legalize and tax marijuana—much like the legalization initiative that state residents will be voting on this November—are both opposed by some pro-pot activists.

For example, Dennis Peron—the co-author of Proposition 215, which legalized medical marijuana in California over a decade ago—is against AB 390 because, among other reasons, "it's too restrictive. Only a five-by-five-foot area can be cultivated, increasing the cost of marijuana. It makes a whole new class of criminals by creating a felony for smoking with, and/or furnishing marijuana to, minors—including 18- to 21-year-olds. Not to mention the tax of \$50 an ounce will make the product prohibitively expensive, and the taxes will be used to prosecute people."

Leland Cole, leader of the International Cannabis Clemency Project, asks this rhetorical question: "Do you really think you can legalize marijuana for some while others remain on the inside, without making any provisions for those that have lost their liberty?" Furthermore, he points out, "most of the people presently being held for cannabis charges in California are from one racial-minority group or another, or are of poor economic status, or both. No equal protection there—this is a federal civil-rights lawsuit waiting to happen."

Paul Stanford, the main author of a legalization initiative in Oregon, actually did consider an amnesty provision. "But there were polls, and we found that it made us lose about 15 percent of the vote," he tells me. "That 15 percent is crucial to being able to win."

I may be slightly jaded, but I'm still shocked that 15 percent of Oregon citizens who support legalizing pot would take such an illogical and unjust position, thereby allowing simple compassion to go right down the drain—as though people should no longer be arrested for pot, but it's okay to leave behind all those who are *already* living in cages. Nationally, between 1990 and 2005, there were more than 7.2 million marijuana-related arrests. In California alone,



Seventy percent of California's prison population is serving time for drug-related crimes.

70 percent of the 150,000 state prisoners are currently serving time for drug-related convictions.

America's puritanical political process serves as a buffer between the status quo and the forces of evolution. For instance, in order to get GOP votes for the children's health-care bill, Democrats agreed to provide \$28 million in funding for the abstinence-only sex-education programs favored by Republicans. During the presidential campaign, Barack Obama admitted, in the context of health-care reform, that the insurance companies were so firmly entrenched that he would be unable to dispense with them—and so there would have to

be compromises. Now, amnesty for pot prisoners is the single-payer of marijuana-law reform, and growing your own is the new public option.

As long as any government can arbitrarily decide which drugs are legal and which are illegal, then anyone serving time for a nonviolent drug offense is a political prisoner. With that in mind, I decided to query Tom Ammiano about his bill and the upcoming ballot initiative.

"Years of advocacy," he told me, "have created the opportunity that we have right now with regard to legalization, and the initiative is a clear sign of how much progress we have made. While I understand the desire to have the initiative provide clemency for marijuana convictions, it simply cannot accomplish everything that people want."

"Undoing the damage of 30 years of the War on Drugs will take more than one ballot initiative. Sentencing reform is an integral part of that, and it is crucial that those in the movement see the forest through the trees. The initiative is simply the next step in the struggle for a rational public policy towards marijuana—but it will not be the last." ✨

*Paul Krassner has expanded his unauthorized autobiography without granting himself permission. Confessions of a Raving, Unconfined Nut: Misadventures in the Counterculture is available at paulkrassner.com.*

## 'Anyone serving time for a nonviolent drug offense is a political prisoner'

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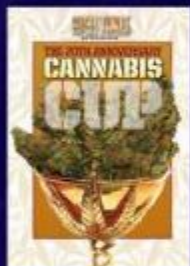
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## HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH MELODRAMATICS

Jesse Geron, along with brothers Caleb and Wiley Saccheri, created the Melodramatics while still in high school in 2001. What began as a group of friends messing around with a mix of punk, rock and ska solidified into something more with the 2007 addition of Richard Hughes, whose trombone gave the group the brass sound they needed to fill out their ska vibe.

In March of 2009, the band released their debut album, *Superpower* (available on iTunes). Shortly thereafter, the Melodramatics rededicated themselves to touring and making music. They've played almost constantly up and down the West Coast and in neighboring states ever since, hitting Portland, Boise, Las Vegas, Lake Havasu and Santa Cruz, just to name a few.

Through constant touring, this Redding, CA-based band have developed an impressive fan base, and they also had the honor of sharing the stage with some of their favorite acts, including Reel Big Fish.

In January 2010, the Melodramatics released *Dirty Beach*, a four-song EP consisting of a mel-lower reggae/rock vibe than the group's earlier punk/ska sound. This vibe is consistent with the material being recorded for the band's upcoming full-length album, due out in the fall.

For more information on the Melodramatics, including tour dates and audio samples, check out [hightimes.com/themelodramatics](http://hightimes.com/themelodramatics).

**MISS OCTOBER**  
**NAME:** Shanon **AGE:** 24  
**PROFILE:** Blonde Bombshell  
**OCCUPATION:** MMJ Grower  
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BY BOBBY BLACK

# HIGH TEA

An open letter to the Tea Party Patriots.

## Dear Teabaggers,

It seems like every time I turn on the television lately, there you are at your town-hall meetings and rallies, packing heat and waving protest signs, expressing your outrage at Washington. And, frankly, I'm not sure what to make of you. From what I've seen, it seems an awful lot like your movement was mostly manufactured by Fox News, and is

composed mainly of flag-humping old white folks who are just scared of change and minorities (particularly that one brown-skinned fella in the White House).

But rather than base my opinion solely on your portrayal in the "liberal media," I went straight to the source: [teapartypatriots.org](http://teapartypatriots.org). According to your website, you claim to be a "non-partisan grassroots organization of individuals united by our core values [defined as 'Fiscal Responsibility, Constitutionally Limited Government, and Free Markets'] derived from the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America, [and] the Bill Of Rights ...."

Now I must admit, as an independent-minded activist and card-carrying member of the ACLU (I assume y'all are too?), this sounds rather appealing. Problem is, I can't help but ask myself: Where was all your anger about violating the Constitution when Bush and Cheney were tapping our phones, torturing detainees and discarding habeas corpus? Where was your populist outrage at government spending during the eight long years they spent squandering at least half a *trillion* dollars on an unnecessary war in Iraq, in the process taking America from a \$236 billion surplus to a \$1.3 trillion deficit? And where was your "recognition and support for grassroots organization powered by activism and civic responsibility" when millions were marching around the globe to stop that war from happening? I guess what I'm getting at is, do you *truly* support the noble democratic principles you espouse, or are they merely slogans you wrap around your partisan paranoia and prejudices?

Fortunately, I've come up with a simple way that you can prove to me (and the rest of America) that you're on the level: You can support the legalization of marijuana. Why marijuana? Allow me to address, point by point, why this issue should be high on your agenda.

**Core value #1: Fiscal Responsibility.** You want to cut wasteful government spending? Great—how about we start with the Drug War. Each year, over \$40 billion of our hard-earned tax dollars are wasted chasing, arresting, prosecuting and incarcerating nonviolent citizens committing victimless crimes. If pot were legal, we'd not only save tens of billions, we'd *generate* tens of billions in tax revenues that could be used to address real threats and help reduce the national debt.

**Core value #2: Constitutionally Limited Government.** Since you claim to revere the Constitution and to "know the original intent of the government our founders set forth, and stand in support of that intent," then you must realize that many of those founders grew hemp, and that both the Constitution and Declaration of Independence



Green tea, anyone?

DAN SKYE

were actually made of hemp, as were many of the US flags you so passionately defend, and the ropes, rigging, fire hoses and stitching we used during World War II—including the parachute that saved George H.W. Bush's life.

As champions of individual liberty, I'm sure you must support the right of citizens to ingest whatever substances they choose—so long as they don't harm others. I mean, who

is Big Government to tell us what we can or can't eat, drink or smoke, right? And as vocal opponents of fascism, I'm sure you're as appalled as I am by the DEA's Gestapo-style enforcement tactics (i.e., militaristic home invasions) in their crusade to turn America into a narco-police state.

**Core value #3: Free Markets.** As proponents of uninhibited capitalism, surely you support all the struggling entrepreneurs and small-business owners of California's and Colorado's burgeoning cannabis industries, who are being strangled by oppressive regulation and intimidation by federal agencies. If marijuana were legal, instead of a black market run by criminals, we'd have a free market run by businessmen selling a highly demanded, exportable commodity generating huge profits and adding to our GDP.

Of course, there are other issues you have strong opinions on—immigration, for instance. Since you're so firmly against illegal immigrants taking American jobs (as evidenced by your support of Arizona's SB 1070 law), it only makes sense that you'd want to stop the flow of money to violent Mexican drug cartels and instead see that money be spent on more peaceful, patriotic American homegrown.

Then there's health care—the very impetus behind your movement's origin. In your list of talking points, you state: "We will oppose any system run by politicians or bureaucrats granted the right to deny citizens and physicians the treatments they believe are in a patient's best interest." Well, if that's the case, you undoubtedly oppose the current policy of the VA and federal law enforcement, which prohibits patients and veterans with chronic pain and life-threatening illnesses from receiving their desperately needed medicinal marijuana—and even threatens physicians who prescribe it.

Which brings us to the issue of federalism. As avid advocates of states' rights to self-govern, I ask you—if we, the people, vote to make marijuana legal in our respective states, what right does the federal government have to override the will of the people?

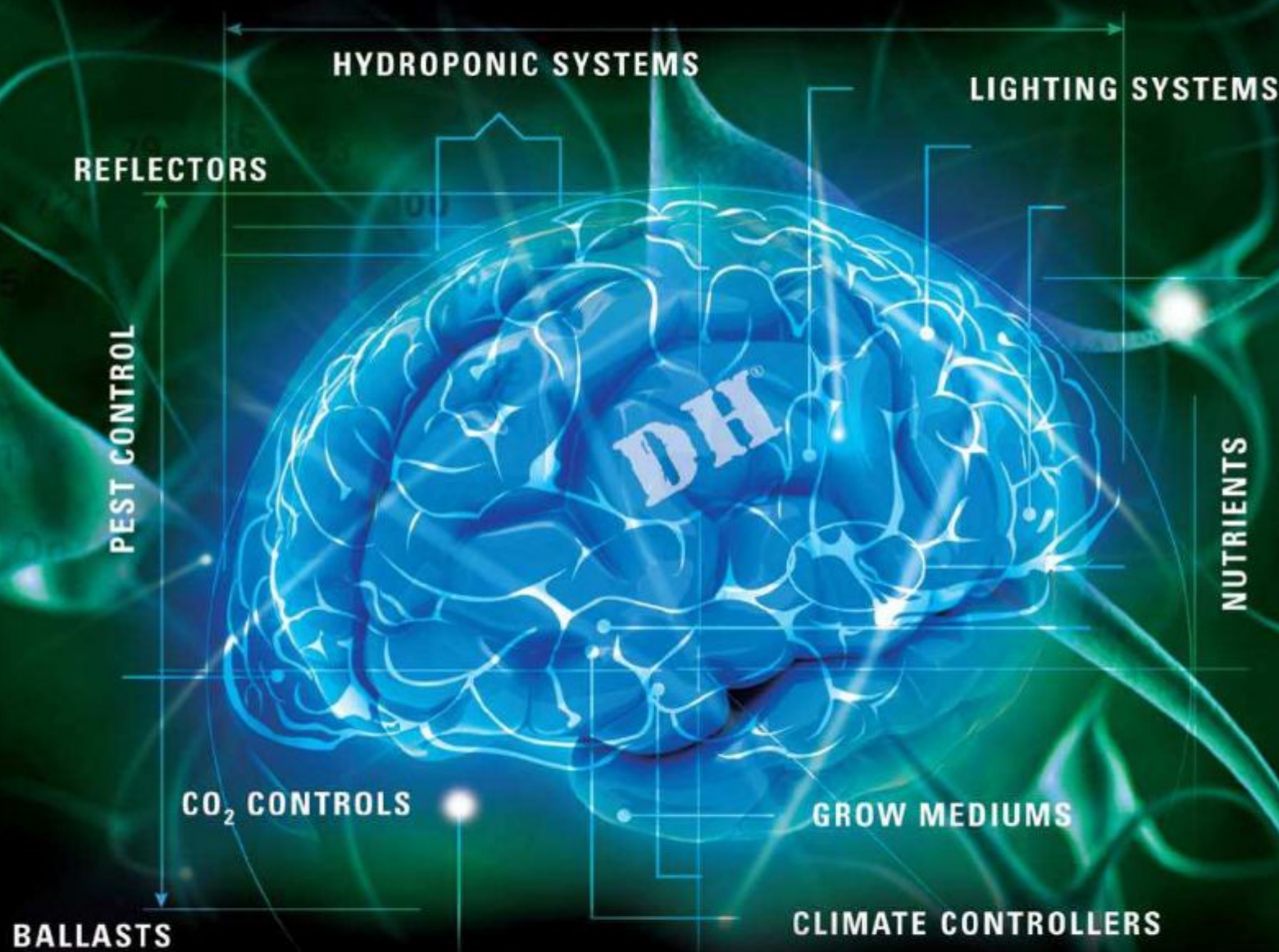
So you see, it's only logical for you to support legalization. After all, what's a libertarian, really, but a conservative who smokes pot? Just ask your hero Ron Paul, who's been calling for decriminalization for decades. Hell, even your poster boy, Glenn Beck, said in a recent episode of his show: "You know what? I think it's about time we legalize marijuana." So, if you really are defenders of personal freedom, let's see you add some "green" tea to the pot. If not, and you're just a bunch of angry nutballs, well then, my dear Teabaggers ... *go dunk yourselves.* 🍵



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Taking a medium sized space and turning it into two small rooms is an easy solution for space conscious growers.



# COLLEGE BUDS

Why the future of America is growing brighter every day—with a rundown of growroom and security basics. By Jack Starks

Inside and around your typical American college town, there are not only illuminated minds, but also brightly lit rooms and the hum of digital ballasts vibrating gently on hardwood floors. Most cannabis lovers, especially college students, are always searching the market for the best herb at the right price. Students, like most other demographics of smokers, can be susceptible to high prices and sometimes less-than-satisfactory quality.

While most of the bud smoked on college campuses is probably grown out of state, there are undoubtedly times throughout every college student's career when something is overheard, whispered in a low tone, about some random nearby grow op where the prized buds came from. Unfortunately, when this is the case, the choice herb tends to become more expensive.

Statements like "It's local homegrown" or "My guy grows it in his basement!" might sound familiar. The reality is, they're likely the truth. Today,

more and more young growers are taking up the reins and asserting control over the buds they smoke, buy and sell. So why, then, is it more expensive? Because, although operating a small grow op in or near a college town can be a very lucrative business, there are a lot more considerations here than might normally apply. To start with, students are young adults with aspirations and a long life ahead of them. They are studying toward a future in a chosen profession—and although they might love their weed, it is not necessarily their life.

To manage a growroom plus classes, a social life, family and just plain feeding yourself can be a lot for anyone—not to mention that cannabis cultivation in this kind of setting means lesser outputs, with higher costs in relation to both the grower's yield *and* risk. So here's a look at how America's best and brightest are doing it—and doing it intelligently and, most importantly, safely. Because it's true what they say: When it comes to education, children are the future.

## Security

Before discussing the inner workings, we should first begin with the most important external element of any college grow op: security. When it comes to staying safe, there are certain rules and guidelines to both live and grow by. Rule No. 1: Keep your mouth shut.

Regardless of how proud a grower may be, all it takes is for one student to know—or even *think* he knows—about a growroom, and word will spread like wildfire throughout the entire campus. Before you know it, every student—whether they smoke pot or not—will be aware of the buzz, and it won't be long before the school officials or local authorities find out.

While the problem here is a serious one, it's also very easy to avoid. All it really takes is the discipline and self-control not to brag to pals about your indoor garden or have anyone—for *any* reason—meet you at the grow location. If the odor isn't properly controlled, it will be obvious



This cheap and effective set up is easy to make and produces decent yields in a small space.



sometimes without notice; the best way to keep this from happening is to negotiate for the proper notification if it's not already in the lease. (Generally, 24 hours' advance notice prior to any inspection is reasonable for both parties.) Be sure to get this language into the actual lease agreement before you sign it.

Though it varies from state to state, rental properties need to be inspected every year or so by a fire chief. While this is necessary for the safety of the tenant, the inspection can be a window for probable cause. An easy way to avoid any problems is to ask when the last inspection occurred and when the next one is scheduled. Assuming you've efficiently masked the odors, a fire chief only has the right to walk anywhere that a smoke or carbon-dioxide detector is present, as he needs to confirm their proper operation. Still, inspections like these only underscore the importance of deciding on the right type of growroom. Smaller rooms or tents are easy to move (or tear down) in a matter of hours, while larger, room-sized grow ops require plans made in advance for emergency situations and visits.

### Location & Space Selection

When you're initially deciding on a place to live, there are some basic principles to take into consideration. Obviously, extra space will be a requirement, but an extra bedroom or "office space" is never a bad idea for a student. Other considerations—such as proximity to neighbors, the thickness of shared apartment walls and the type of neighborhood—are also important factors. However, sometimes your choice is limited, and sometimes the decision to grow comes after the choice has already been made.

Depending on the size of the property, space may be an issue. If so, be creative: Is there an attic? Is there any empty basement space? Perhaps there are two bathrooms when only one is really needed? These are some possibilities to explore when planning an indoor growroom.

If you'll be growing in an attic, keep in mind that heat rises. Luckily, most attics already have exhaust fans installed, serving as an easy fix to heat buildup. Besides the existing heat, lights and ballasts create additional heat that can stress plants—or, even worse, produce a strong heat signature that is visible on thermal cameras operated by law-enforcement agencies.

While heat is a natural problem in attic grows, humidity and low temperatures are the issue in basements. Effective solutions here include the installation of a dehumidifier and the use of small space heaters during the colder seasons. Good air circulation can also prevent the humidity from creating additional problems such as mold and mildew. If an attic or basement garden isn't feasible, look at smaller spaces like walk-in closets or bathrooms. If there are two bathrooms in the house or apartment, close one of them off. (What college student needs two bathrooms anyway?) A bathroom provides many of the necessary requirements for optimal growing, such as a close water source, a bathtub for flushing your soil, access to drainage pipes and, of course, an exhaust fan.

An extremely successful cloner that utilizes recycled soda bottles as humidity domes.



These clay pellets wick moisture to these young clones.



to anyone that there's a garden somewhere inside—not to mention that a parade of students coming back and forth to your residence is unnecessary traffic that will only bring unwanted attention to you and your place.

Another serious problem afflicting college grows is theft. In many cases, thefts occur in less expensive areas, usually in a part of town with the shadiest people. When this is the case, it's important to have a little extra security. Surveillance cameras are one popular option and can be a great idea for a grow op. However, there are some minor aspects that need to be considered. Regardless of where you live, college town or not, cameras posted around a home are very conspicuous and could raise suspicion with the local authorities. Cameras could also suggest that you have expensive electronics or other valuables inside—not just thriving plants.

All it takes is one person breaking in and

stumbling upon your growroom to destroy all the time, work and money you've invested. Another thing to keep in mind is that thieves present two very distinct threats: first by stealing your plants or robbing you of your valuables, and then by tipping off the cops about your horticultural activity if they ever need to. One of the cheapest ways to secure your garden is always the simplest: lock up!

The last aspect of security specifically addresses house or apartment leases. Whether you're using a grow tent or a self-constructed grow area, it is imperative that the room be kept away from prying eyes and unannounced guests. When renting a house or apartment, carefully read the lease agreement, especially the sections regarding landlord visits and utility inspections. Inquire about proper notice for any workers coming to the house. Some landlords will periodically check up on their property,





Carbon scrubbers help remove the odor from the exhausted air.

## ODOR-CONTROL TIPS

Odor control is an important component in both growroom security and choosing its location. It's important to remember that, during the plants' vegetative stage, the faint odor they produce is nothing compared to the dank smell of a thriving garden during flowering. Addressing this issue early in the grow cycle will help you avoid headaches down the road.

There are some simple and inexpensive methods for concealing the smell. As mentioned earlier, the importance of an exhaust fan is paramount. However, simply venting the stinky air outside might tip off the neighbors, the landlord or the police. It is crucial to clean the exhausted growroom air using an in-line fan combined with charcoal (activated-carbon) filters. Carbon filters are cheap and highly effective and work by literally "scrubbing" the odor-filled air as it passes over shards of charcoal. Other solutions include ionizers that neutralize odors by changing the molecular structure of the air molecules, as well as ONA buckets that bond with odors to conceal the smell. All of these products are easily purchased at garden-supply centers and local grow stores.

## Starting With Soil

As in any new enterprise, getting the basics of cannabis growing down is necessary to create a strong foundation upon which to build. Finding the right grow medium is the place to start for most growers: The type of medium used can dictate the system's type and size, which may also have to conform to the space available. While it's debatable which mediums are most efficient, at the end of the day, it all comes down to the grower's preference.

For beginners, soil is usually the best way to get basic horticultural practices down. Since soil acts as a buffer between the root system and the nutrients, it tends to be one of the most forgiving methods for marijuana cultivation. The next step is choosing what kind of soil to use. Soilless mixes, which are peat- or sphagnum-based but look and feel a lot like earth, are a very popular option: They offer all the benefits of regular soil but come sterile, without insects or diseases.

When growing with soil, there are usually fewer nutrient or pH problems. Though hydroponic growers claim shorter grow cycles, an inexperienced hydroponic grower is more likely to burn up plants due to overfeeding than a first-time soil grower. Hydroponic gardening is something to consider for the more experienced grower who can devote his or her full attention to the garden—which means that for students who may get bogged down with schoolwork or captivated by the newest video game, soil is probably the best bet.

Keep in mind that growing pot is not like having a cactus from the supermarket that can go weeks without watering. Cannabis cultivation requires more attention and can be extremely frustrating at times—but if it's done properly, it's definitely worth it in the end.



Tighter spaces may require being a little more creative.

## Hydroponics

The term *hydroponics* generally means growing plants in a soilless, pH-neutral medium, in a setup that usually includes an automated water-delivery system. These systems are categorized as either passive or active systems. Soilless grow mediums such as rockwool or clay aggregate contain no nutrients, which are vital at the beginning stages of plant growth for both seedlings and clones.

When dealing with hydroponics, a grower

must not only be attentive, but also able to respond quickly to any issues regarding nutrient burn (overdosing) or pH imbalances. Understanding some of the basics of hydroponic growing is essential before making a final decision on which system to use. Keep in mind that different hydroponic mediums require different levels of skill.

Beginner growers often make the mistake of choosing rockwool as their first hydroponic medium. Rockwool is a porous fiber that encourages strong root growth. Since rockwool is pH-neutral and allows for excellent air penetration, a grower can place a germinated seed directly into the center of a rockwool cube. While this may seem convenient and enticing, for an inexperienced grower, keeping the plant alive during the seedling stage is harder in this setup. Since the rockwool is very absorbent, the grower needs to be very careful not to saturate the cubes with water, as this can cause the seedlings to rot.

Another drawback of using rockwool is that it's very susceptible to algae and mildew. When a damp surface is exposed to light for long intervals, algae begins to form. A cheap and easy solution to this problem is to purchase cube covers or keep bags over the slabs, as this will protect the rockwool from exposure to light.

One of the more efficient mediums for novice hydroponic growers is clay pellets. These pH-neutral clay balls, when placed in net pots, help wick moisture to the developing root system. Though you can't start your plants in this medium, transplanting them from a fibrous medium (such as peat pellets or rockwool plugs) to clay-filled net pots is very simple. Each of these clay pellets has the unique ability to hold moisture and help deliver it to developing roots.



# Sweet Seeds®



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Expocannabis 2007



Best Seeds Bank  
Spannabis 2008



## Autoflowering

A feminised automatic strain of high stature. We have selected this particular one, which can reach a height of 1-1,5 metres, in order to answer our customers demand for a taller automatic strain. Growing it outdoors with plenty of sunlight, it can reach 2 metres in height. Good production of compact and resinous buds. A fruity taste with a skunk touch.

### Big Devil

Autoflowering: 100% Indoor Blooming: 6 weeks.  
Indoor/Outdoor Harvest: 9 weeks from the germination. Height: 1-2 m.  
3s. \$32,98  
5s. \$64,50 / 10s. \$109

## Autoflowering

Our most recent and fastest auto flowering strain. Excellent production with big buds covered by abundant and aromatic resins. These plants can reach heights of 40-90 cm. Strong effect and sweet taste with exotic tones inherited from its Diesel ancestry.

### Fast Bud

Autoflowering: 100% Indoor blooming: 5 weeks.  
Indoor/Outdoor Harvest: 7 and half weeks from germination. Height 40 - 90 cm.  
3s. \$21,50  
5s. \$43,02 / 10s. \$86,04

## Autoflowering

Automatic feminised variety. The beginning of its flowering does not depend on season or photoperiod; therefore it can be grown all year round. Extremely fast flowering, it's height does not exceed 80 cm. Sweet aroma, hints of cheese and yeast.

### Speed Devil

Autoflowering: 100% Indoor Blooming: 5 weeks.  
Indoor/Outdoor Harvest: 8 weeks from the germination. Height: 40 - 80 cm.  
3s. \$37,28  
5s. \$68,80 / 10s. \$117,6

## Sweet Cheese

New

It's a fusion between two high-grade strains, Cheese x Black Jack. The genetics highlight the virtues of its ancestors, giving a new twist to the aromas and flavour of the Black Jack. It produces long central buds surrounded by plenty of peripheral buds that are also long and of good quality. Its high productivity added to a new and revolutionary flavour - a slight taste of mature cheese and spice - makes Sweet Cheese a recommended option for those who seek new flavours and aromas. Regarding the effects, it is important to remember that we're dealing with a mix of two of the big hitters in cannabis genetics. Its effect is strong and long lasting, inducing euphoria and a feeling of relaxation.

Indica/Sativa: 30%-70%.  
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: Mid-late October.

3 seeds \$41,59 / 5 seeds \$70,28 / 10 seeds \$142,01

## Snow Fruit

New

Sweet Seeds present the abominable plant of the snow! It has predominantly indica genetics that, in our opinion, have rarely been seen before. This strain has an exaggerated development of the lateral branches. Because of this just one plant can occupy an extensive area of cultivation and produce a huge harvest on its own. It produces succulent and compact buds thanks to its long calyxes. While it blooms it exhibits a charming range of colours in its foliage, with shades of green, magenta, red, and purple. It also develops a big mantle of trichomes in the flowering bunch and throughout its foliage during this phase. It's a strong strain, with a very short internodal distance and strong stalks that help it to resist the windy conditions of outdoor growing. While fresh, its aroma is reminiscent of a mix of mint and fruits of the forest, with a slight flavour of toasted almonds and humus. Its effects are very strong and relaxing due to its high percentage of THC and CBD. This is a strain of high medicinal quality.

Indica/Sativa: 90%-10%.  
Indoor Blooming: 8 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: End of September.

3 seeds \$35,85 / 5 seeds \$60,24 / 10 seeds \$114,75

## Double White

New

This is the result of crossing two elite clones selected around the year 2000, White Widow and Great White Shark, which are the two most appreciated and famous of the White family. Genetics characteristics include easy growth, strong effect, extraordinary taste and high production of trichome covered buds. In short, this is a plant with which it is easy to get good results. It's a vigorous and strong plant, with short internodes and a very resistant structure. This allows easy control of its growth during which the blooming of the buds join together to form a long tail. Its aroma is very pleasant and powerful, with slight tastes of sweet and sour, fresh and floral. The effect is also strong and typical of the indica-sativa hybrids.

Indica/Sativa: 60%-40%.  
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: Mid-late October.

3 seeds \$28,68 / 5 seeds \$50,19 / 10 seeds \$100,38

## Cream Caramel

Cocktail of our best indicas, Blue Black x Maple Leaf Indica x White Rhino. Sweet and caramelized taste. Relaxing and antidepressant.



Indica/Sativa: 90%-10%.  
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, beginning of October.  
3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

## S.A.D. S1

Sweet Afgani Delicious

Self-pollination of one of our strongest and most aromatic mothers, Afghan genetic, with a strong sweet aroma.



Indica/Sativa: 90%-10%.  
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: End of September.  
3s. \$21,50 / 5s. \$43,02 / 10s. \$86,04

## Black Jack

One of our most powerful and productive hybrids, Black Domina x Jack Herer. Intense incensed Haze aroma. Very strong hybrid.



Indica/Sativa: 50%-50%.  
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: Beginning of October.  
3s. \$27,24 / 5s. \$48,76 / 10s. \$97,52

## Jack 47

Hybrid between the two most powerful varieties of all time, Jack Herer x AK 47. Very high production with a very intense effect. Excellent force, the plant produces big buds full of resins. Sweet and incensed aroma.



Indica/Sativa: 25%-75%.  
Indoor Blooming: 9 and a half weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: End of October.

3s. \$43,02 / 5s. \$71,71 / 10s. \$143,42

## Ice Cool

Developed starting from a NYC Diesel line, powerful with high production with a particular and strong blue cypress tone and exotic smell. Indica's plant structure with a strong euphoric effect that shows the presence of sativa in its genetic heritage.

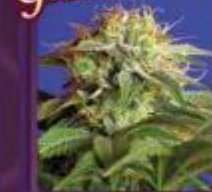


Indica/Sativa: 40%-60%.  
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: End of September.

3s. \$47,33 / 5s. \$88,84 / 10s. \$137,68

## Green Poison

Hybrid variety principally indica with very high production. Excellent taste and aroma. Thanks to its quick flowering, it anticipates fungal attacks. Flowery and fruity taste.



Indica/Sativa: 70%-30%.  
Indoor Blooming: 7 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: Mid to late September.

3s. \$32,98 / 5s. \$54,50 / 10s. \$109

## Sweet Tai

Súper Tai x Early Skunk  
Indica/Sativa: 30%-70%.  
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, Beginning of October.  
3s. \$21,50 / 5s. \$43,02 / 10s. \$86,04

## Wild Rose

Rosetta Stone x HOG  
Indica/Sativa: 35%-65%.  
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: Mid to late of October.  
3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

## Mohan Ram

White Widow x S.A.D. S1  
Indica/Sativa: 85%-15%.  
Indoor Blooming: 8 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: End of September.  
3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

## Psicodelicia

U.S.A Clone x Nepal's Plant  
Indica/Sativa: 30%-70%.  
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, Beginning of October.  
3s. \$25,81 / 5s. \$47,33 / 10s. \$94,66

## Ganesh Spirit

Sativa clone from Northern India's mountains  
Indica/Sativa: 40%-60%.  
Indoor Blooming: 8 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: Beginning-mid October.  
3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

## Flash Back #2

FLO x White Widow  
Indica/Sativa: 40%-60%.  
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, Beginning of October.  
3s. \$24,37 / 5s. \$45,89 / 10s. \$91,78

## Botafumeiros

Asian ancestry and Haze  
Indica/Sativa: 25%-75%.  
Indoor Blooming: 10 weeks.  
Outdoor Harvest: Mid to late October.  
3s. \$35,85 / 5s. \$67,37 / 10s. \$114,74

## Collector Edition Pack

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Psicodelicia  
\$55,93

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Sweet Tai  
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C.Pack #3  
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Mohan Ram - Flash Back #2  
Double White  
\$54,50

C.Pack #4  
6 seeds properly labeled  
Jack 47 - Wild Rose  
Green Poison  
\$74,58

Autoflowering C.Pack #1  
8 seeds properly labeled  
Big Devil - Fast Bud  
Speed Devil  
\$65,97

www.sweetseeds.es

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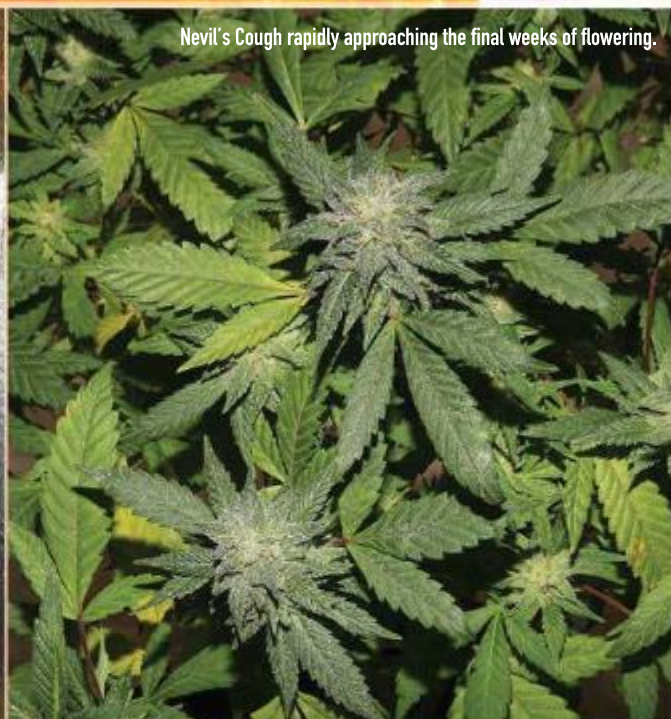
Sweet Seeds does not send seeds to the USA. For more info contact: The Attitude Seedbank at 0044 1473 7246 98 / 011 44 1473 7246 98 or The Single Seed Centre at www.worldwide-marijuana-seeds.com



Recently rooted in soil, these plants thrive off of energy from the T5 fluorescent lamp.



Nevil's Cough rapidly approaching the final weeks of flowering.



### About Growing: The Vegetative Stage

With space being an issue for most college growers, good utilization of the grow area is vital. Since plants require different light cycles during their two main stages of development, it's a lot easier to simply adjust the lights and use the same space for both.

The first stage of the growth cycle is the vegetative stage. During this period, plants grow vigorously and need to develop strong root systems, which will increase their yield when it comes time to harvest. Starting about two weeks from the time a seed is germinated, the seedlings will begin to grow leaves more rapidly. The same is true for clones: Once cut from the mother plant, the roots will take approximately two weeks to root properly. With a strong root system developing, it is now necessary to increase the size of the plant's container.

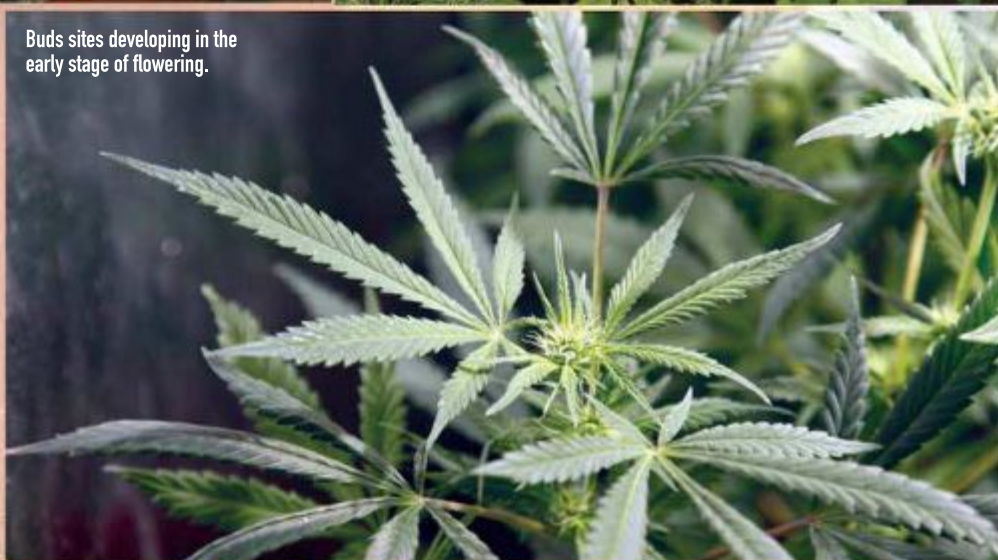
The vegetative stage can last anywhere from a week to months, depending on the grow system and strain, the grower's preferred plant size, and the available space. At this stage, the lights should be on for 18 hours and off for six every day. One reason for this ratio of light to darkness is to simulate the spring season, but also (and more importantly) because the roots develop better in the dark, when the vegetation isn't using as much energy.

During the vegetative cycle, plants require a certain light spectrum that is best provided by metal-halide (MH) bulbs. These bulbs give plants the best spectrum of white light, thereby promoting shorter internodes between each leaf set and preventing the plants from growing lanky.

For college students, cost is always the bottom line. This is why most college growers tend to use low-wattage bulbs and more compact lighting systems. The lower wattage will increase the electric bill only slightly, not to mention that they're some of the cheapest systems on the market. Once you get higher than a 150-watt bulb, a ballast becomes necessary—and with that comes more heat and higher electricity costs.

The vegetative stage is one of the most crucial stages in the plant's development. Pay attention to your plants and they will reward you accordingly. Remember, if you stress your plants during the vegetative stage, you are more likely to reduce their yield because they will not be able to reach their full potential.

Buds sites developing in the early stage of flowering.



### About Growing: The Flowering Stage

The flowering stage begins at the gardener's discretion and depends heavily on the grow system being used. Hydro growers, especially in "sea of green" (SOG) set-ups, tend to vegetate plants for only a week or two before switching to flowering. Conversely, soil growers—especially outdoor growers—may vegetate plants for up to two months before triggering the flowering phase. This is when the light cycle switches from 18/6 to an even 12 hours on, 12 hours off. For plants, this signals a change of seasons and the approach of winter, causing cannabis plants to begin producing buds. As mentioned earlier, this change in the light cycle can take place in the same room you've vegetated your plants in, or it can be done in a separate flowering room to open the vegetative space up for the next cycle of clones.

During the vegetative stage, the use of MH bulbs is recommended; however, during the flowering stage, high-pressure sodium (HPS) bulbs are required. There are different-sized bulbs that will optimize your plants' energy intake, depending on the size of your growroom: If you're growing in an area that is smaller than 3 by 3 feet, then your best bet is probably a 400-watt system. However, if your area is bigger than 3 by 3 feet, then you might be better

off with a 600-watt system or larger.

The flowering stage is where you'll start to see all your hard work begin to come together. After about two weeks, the plants begin to develop bud sites. Over the course of the next six to 12 weeks (sometimes more, depending on the strain), the buds will become well pronounced and more familiar to you. Between the fourth and sixth weeks, bud formation will increase rapidly. Pay particular attention to this rapid growth, because the slowing of bud growth is a sign that harvest time is approaching.

Once you see that there's a definite slowing in growth, get a microscope and check the resin glands for their color. The rule of thumb is that if the resin glands are still mostly clear, you should wait a bit longer. Once you start to see a mix of color—i.e., the glands are predominately cloudy or even slightly amber—then it's possible to harvest. Harvesting now will provide you with a more functional, mild high; the longer you wait, the more the plant reaches its maximum potential. When the resin glands are predominately amber and others are cloudy, the end effect will be more potent. But there's a time limit on this, so watch the glands carefully for the first sign of change—because if you wait too long, the resin glands will start to degrade.



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Lightly manicured Sour Lemon Skunk that will receive the finishing touches after it has dried.

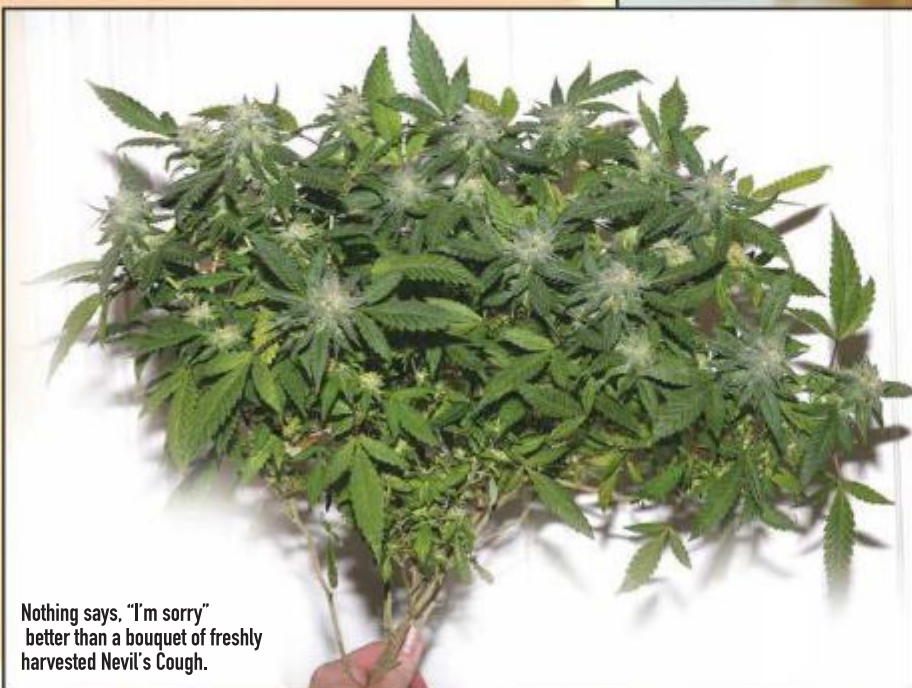
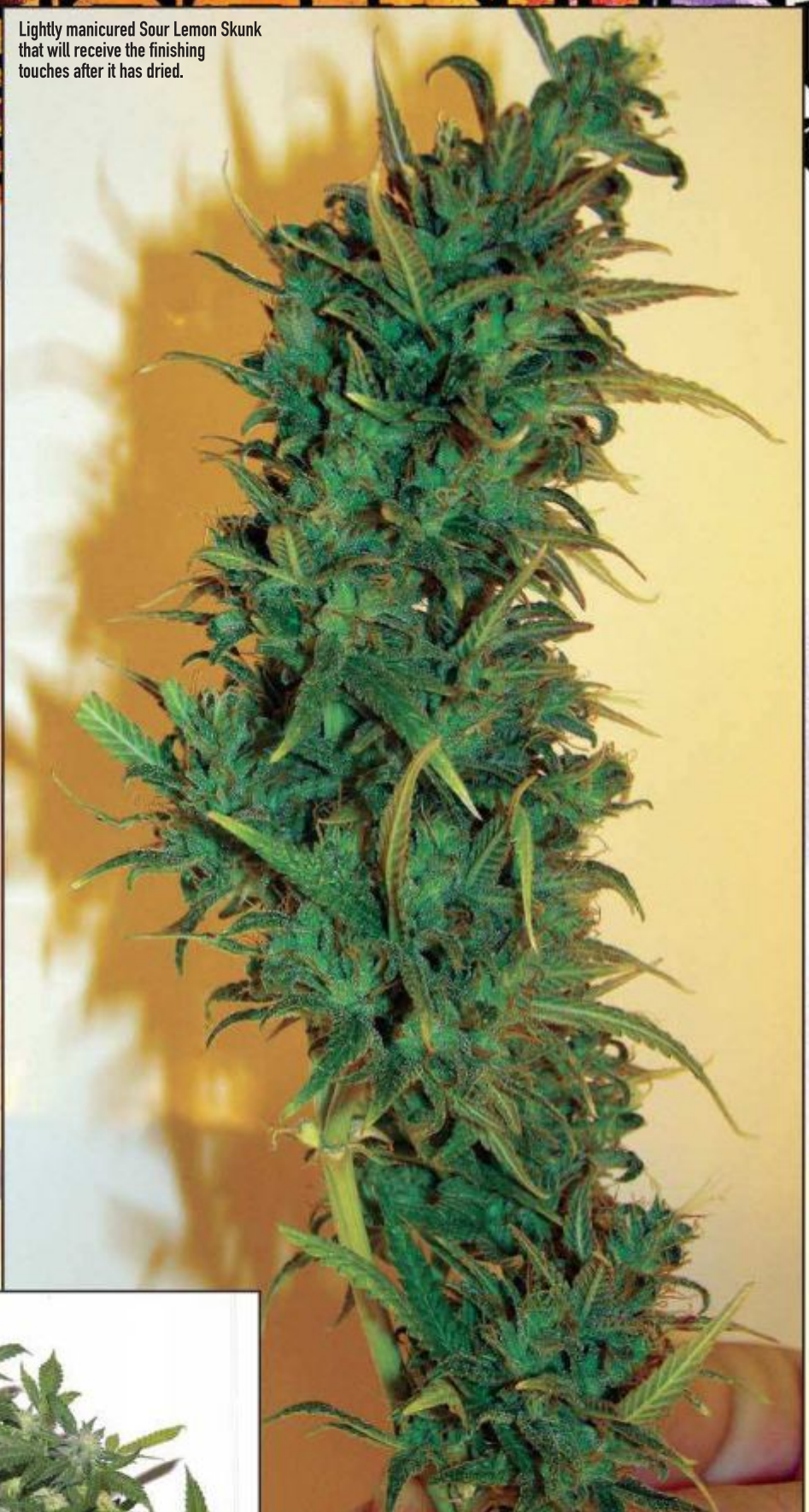
## Harvesting

With the resin glands packing the desired effect, it's now time to harvest your garden. There are many different ways to do this, but they boil down to two primary methods: The first entails cutting each individual bud from the branches, while the second (and more popular) method is simply to cut down the plant at the base of the stalk and then begin trimming. While both methods ultimately result in a similar finished product, trimming the buds individually can be easier, especially when dealing with a smaller harvest.

When trimming, take off any leaf that doesn't have crystals on it, as these add nothing to the experience of smoking. However, any leaf with crystals on it—especially the smaller leaves closer to the bud (known as "sugar leaves")—should be kept separate and put into a glass bowl. These trimmings can serve many purposes; depending on your ambition and level of skill, you can explore making hash or pot butter. Remember, not only can you sell your prized buds, but you can turn the trim into cash.

Once the buds are manicured to your liking, it's time to begin drying. One of the best places to dry plants is in the closet, since it's dark and generally cooler—but check to make sure that the temperature is between 60°F and 65°F, and that there's some air circulation wherever the plants are drying. Ventilation is also very important; the last thing a grower wants is to work for months, only to lose a crop to mold. (But remember to practice odor control!!) Let the buds dry for approximately seven days, or until the branches snap easily when bent.

After this, the buds should be placed in jars or some sort of sealed container for the curing process. Curing—i.e., super-slow drying—is perhaps one of the most underappreciated aspects of growing pot. It is here that the resin glands dry out and become psychoactive, reaching their full potential in terms of high. To cure your buds, simply seal them in a container and reopen it once or twice a day to release the moisture still evaporating from them. After about a week of drying and another week to 10 days of curing, the buds are ready to be sampled and the benefits of all your hard work truly reaped!



Nothing says, "I'm sorry" better than a bouquet of freshly harvested Nevil's Cough.

## A Word to the Wise

If you're a student, remember that *you* are the one taking the risk. Providing fresh, quality herb to others might be profitable, but it can also come at a price. So regardless of where you decide to grow—whether it's a basement or attic, closet or bathroom, big or small—heed this simple advice: *Don't let anyone know!* It could lead to some tough compromises, to be sure, but you have to take into account the various pros and cons of your situation. Can you live without your home being a social hub? Can you keep quiet for the sake of your buds and your future? If the answer to these questions isn't a definite yes, then do yourself a favor and hold off on growing until the time is right for you. After all, staying safe is the real trick. 🌿





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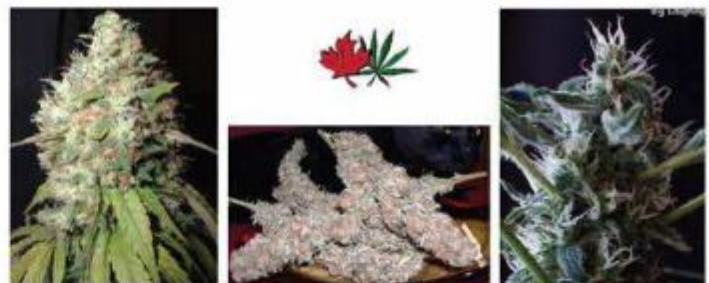
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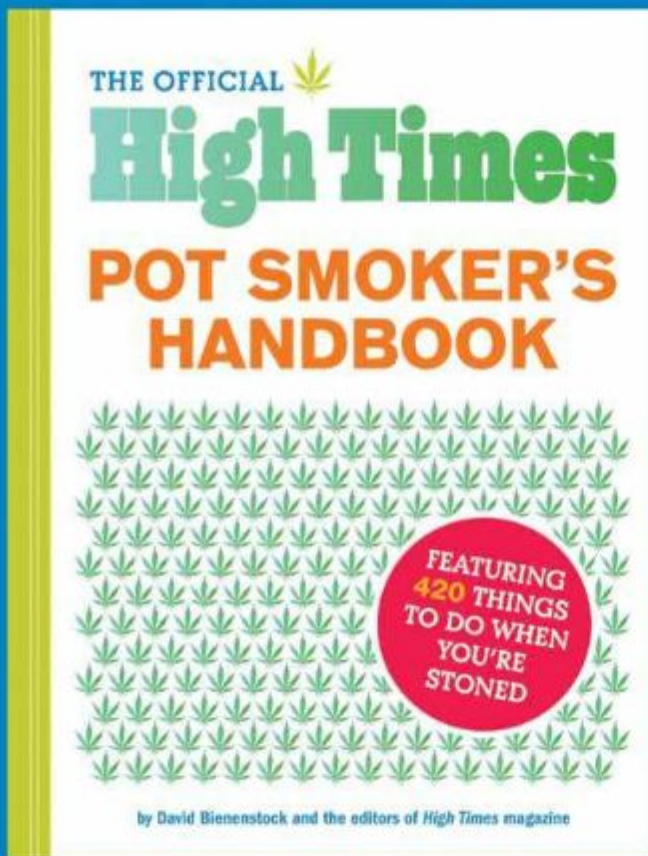
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# TOP 20 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

HIGH TIMES and Students for Sensible Drug Policy proudly present our annual list of the top colleges for marijuana activists.



Students at the 11th annual International SSDP Conference.

College students have always represented a vital force in the fight against injustice, and the battle to end the War on Drugs is no exception.

"Students have been essential to every social-justice movement in history, and they must play that role in reforming marijuana laws," states Jon Perri, the highly passionate outreach director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy. "Drug-policy reform has never had the momentum it currently has, and SSDP has played an important role in making that happen."

Perri recognizes that as we move toward increasing freedom for medical-marijuana patients nationwide—and perhaps even the legalization of recreational use in California—today's young activists have a unique opportunity to lead us into a new and better world. That's why HIGH TIMES, with help from the national staff of SSDP, is proud to present our annual list of the top 20 colleges and universities for students who are committed to marijuana activism.

"Thanks to the efforts of SSDP chapters, nearly 20 Good Samaritan policies have been passed on college campuses around the country," Perri tells HIGH TIMES, referring to the policies that protect students from punishment if they call for help when one of their friends has alcohol or drug poisoning. According to Perri, students have also "worked on some of the most important medical-marijuana and marijuana-decriminalization efforts over the past five years. And SSDP's California chapters will be a key component in the effort to pass November's marijuana-legalization ballot initiative."

If reading about these young world-changers inspires you, get involved in your own community by joining the SSDP ([ssdp.org](http://ssdp.org)) or NORML ([norml.org](http://norml.org)) chapter nearest you—or by starting one of your own!

## 1) Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY

On the campus level, the Ithaca College SSDP worked to get a "medical amnesty" policy for alcohol and other drugs signed by their college president. SSDPers at Ithaca have been doing everything they can to advance statewide medical-marijuana legislation in New York. Evan Nison, president of the chapter, is one of the founders of New York Patients First, a coalition of patient advocates who have been able to raise support for safe, legal access to medical cannabis. [ssdp.org/facebook/ithaca](http://ssdp.org/facebook/ithaca)

## 2) University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

After receiving the 2010 Outstanding Chapter Award, the University of Utah SSDP continue to be a shining example for activism both in and outside the realm of drug-policy reform, including hosting their own weekly campus radio show, *Drug War Radio*, in which they discuss national and local news in drug policy as well as the campaigns they're working on. [www.ssdputah.org](http://www.ssdputah.org)

## 3) Kent State University, Kent, OH

In the past year, the Kent State SSDP have worked with university administrators to pass a Good Samaritan policy and hosted several successful campus events, including a monthly public-education session called "Let's Talk About Drugs." The chapter also publishes a blog

([letstalkaboutdrugs.blogspot.com](http://letstalkaboutdrugs.blogspot.com)), hosted a statewide strategy summit, and tirelessly continues to provide support for Ohio's medical-marijuana legislation through both campus and community outreach efforts. [letstalkaboutdrugs.blogspot.com](http://letstalkaboutdrugs.blogspot.com)

## 4) Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale, VA

Founding and building a successful SSDP chapter can be quite difficult at commuter schools and those with non-traditional campuses, but the NVCC SSDP make it look like a piece of cake. Students from NVCC have directly lobbied their state representatives on marijuana-law reform legislation, building support for the movement in the state. Founder and former president Jason Matthys was given SSDP's Most Outstanding Activist Award at our national conference this March in San Francisco for his dedication and hard work. [ssdp.org/facebook/nvcc/](http://ssdp.org/facebook/nvcc/)

## 5) University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

The University of Iowa SSDP had an outstandingly successful first year, hosting speakers from Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, Iowa Patients for Medical Marijuana and local attorneys for a wildly successful "Know Your Rights" event. University of Iowa SSDP members have also testified at the Iowa Board of Pharmacy hearings on medical marijuana as well as lob-

bied university administrators, who subsequently announced a Good Samaritan policy starting next year. [www.uissdp.blogspot.com](http://www.uissdp.blogspot.com)

## 6) Front Range Community College, Boulder, CO

Hailing from Boulder, CO, the FRCC SSDP has ranked among the organization's most active chapters. In April, chapter members marched to the school president's office to deliver a copy of SAFER's Emerald Initiative, which asks college presidents to support a discussion about the legalization of marijuana as a possible way to reduce alcohol abuse among students. [ssdp.org/facebook/frcc](http://ssdp.org/facebook/frcc)

## 7) University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Founded in the spring of 2002, the University of Maryland is SSDP's longest-running chapter and has ranked #1 in this list in both 2007 and 2009. Refusing to rest on their laurels, chapter members have lately become involved in the Student Government Association and University Senate, adding their much-needed perspective to discussions across campus. UMD SSDP also hosted an astonishing 34 events during the 2009-10 academic year. Rounding out another successful year, the chapter also received the Best Student Group award from the student government. [www.ssdpterps.org](http://www.ssdpterps.org)



**8) University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR**

The University of Arkansas chapter of SSDP began the year by reigniting the campus campaign to equalize marijuana penalties with alcohol penalties, eventually securing an agreement from the school administration to enact the passed policy. For their efforts, UA SSDP received an award from SAFER for outstanding student activism. In addition, the chapter is working closely with other Arkansas activists to develop medical-marijuana campaigns in cities throughout the state.  
[ssdp.org/facebook/uark](http://ssdp.org/facebook/uark)

**9) West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV**

The West Virginia University SSDP chapter has brought an enlightened voice to the debate over drug and alcohol use on campus at a school notorious for its party reputation. SSDP's first (and only) chapter in West Virginia has simultaneously been getting the ball rolling on several drug-policy reform initiatives and campaigns in Morgantown, WV, ranging from a Good Samaritan policy passed by their student government to surveying over 1,500 students for their opinion on the proposed campus smoking ban.  
[www.sensiblemountaineers.org](http://www.sensiblemountaineers.org)

**10) University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT**

Eight members of this chapter graciously gave up their spring break to volunteer in San Francisco the week prior to our national conference, which would not have been possible without their help. The chapter hosted a state summit on drug policy to bring together members of this and other coalitions to discuss strategies for advocating a more sensible approach to dealing with drugs, addiction and crime. Jason Ortiz, one of the leaders of UConn SSDP, was elected in March to serve a two-year term on SSDP's board of directors.  
[ssdp.org/facebook/uconn](http://ssdp.org/facebook/uconn)

**11) University of Texas, El Paso, TX**

Since first testifying before the El Paso City Council in 2009, the members of UTEP SSDP have built a strong relationship with their municipal government in hopes that the City Council will propose another resolution calling for an end to marijuana prohibition, as they did in January of this year. The chapter was also integral in organizing UTEP's first War on Drugs Conference, and later traveled to major policy conferences in Albuquerque and San Francisco in order to bring the experience of those living along the Mexican border to an international audience.  
[ssdp.org/chapter/utep](http://ssdp.org/chapter/utep)

**12) Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL**

Though newly formed, the Northern Illinois University SSDP chapter has taken the local community by storm: The NIU SSDP went from zero to 400 members in only a matter of days after their first public event garnered them several successful media hits, including a blog on the HIGH TIMES website. Politically, chapter members are working hard to lobby their local representatives in support of the medical-marijuana bill currently before the state legislature.  
[www.niussdp.org](http://www.niussdp.org)

**13) Black Hills State University, Spearfish, SD**

One of SSDP's first South Dakota chapters, the activists at BHSU have been focused on working with the South Dakota Coalition for Compassion to gain support for the state's upcoming medical-marijuana ballot initiative. They also recently held a screening of Flex Your Rights' new film, *10 Rules for Dealing With Police*, which had two active-duty local police officers and an attorney on hand to answer audience questions.  
[ssdp.org/facebook/bhsu](http://ssdp.org/facebook/bhsu)



A new crop of activists is growing.

**14) Brown University, Providence, RI**

At our international conference in San Francisco this March, 17 Brown SSDP members were in attendance—more than any other chapter—and received our Change Beyond Campus Award for their contribution to passing Rhode Island's medical-marijuana law. Brown's SSDP chapter also provided volunteer support for the Sixth Annual Patients Out of Time/RIPAC Medical Cannabis Therapeutics Conference this spring.  
[ssdp.org/facebook/brown](http://ssdp.org/facebook/brown)

**15) Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA**

In their first year as an established chapter, VCU SSDP co-organized and hosted the first-ever Mid-Atlantic Regional SSDP Strategy Summit. Devon Tackels, founder and president of the chapter, has been working with VCU's Student Health and Wellness Center to create "Party Smarty," a seminar for students that provides straight facts about drug use and promotes smart decision making. Members also participated in a coordinated international candlelight vigil in January to commemorate the young people and students killed in the ongoing Drug War in Mexico.  
[ssdp.org/facebook/vcu](http://ssdp.org/facebook/vcu)

**16) University of Miami, Miami, FL**

Within the first few weeks of its inception as an officially registered student organization, the University of Miami SSDP chapter presented a public debate on medical marijuana at the Clinton Global Initiative University. UIM SSDP president Eric Stevens used the opportunity to create an outstanding and well-attended public forum.  
[ssdp.org/facebook/miami](http://ssdp.org/facebook/miami)

**17) San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA**

On Cinco de Mayo, the SFU SSDP chapter drew attention to the Drug War in Mexico by setting up flags to represent all of the people killed by prohibition-fueled violence in that country, while gathering signatures for a petition calling for an end to drug prohibition in the United States. The chapter will host SSDP's Second Annual West Coast Regional Conference this fall.  
[ssdp.org/facebook/sfsu](http://ssdp.org/facebook/sfsu)

**18) SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz, NY**

This chapter's annual "Rock Against Racism" concerts drew over 700 attendees to the campus for a free performance by KRS-One and a slate of anti-Drug War speakers that included Kenny Glasgow Sharpton. In addition, chapter members have been sending hundreds of postcards from constituents to the New York Senate to show support for a statewide medical-marijuana law.  
[ssdp.org/facebook/newpaltz](http://ssdp.org/facebook/newpaltz)

**19) Reed College, Portland, OR**

Recently, the Portland DA's office threatened Reed College with a loss of federal funding if the school's administration didn't crack down on drug use at the annual campus fair, and also threatened to send in undercover police officers to make arrests. In response, the Reed SSDP chapter worked to organize a "Know Your Rights" campaign before the event and made sure that information on harm reduction and asserting one's constitutional rights were available to all attendees. There were no arrests.  
[ssdp.org/facebook/reed](http://ssdp.org/facebook/reed)

**20) Mills College, Oakland, CA**

Mills College is a liberal-arts women's college located in Oakland, CA. The members of the newly formed SSDP chapter on campus have been drawing attention to the impact that the War on Drugs has on their community, and on women in particular. To kick off the semester, they hosted a screening of *Perversion of Justice*, a short film about Hamedah Hasan, a mother of three sentenced to life in prison under mandatory-minimum sentencing laws for an alleged conspiracy to sell drugs.  
[ssdp.org/facebook/mills](http://ssdp.org/facebook/mills) ✨



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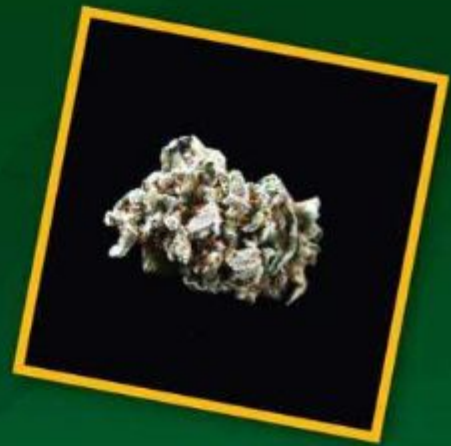


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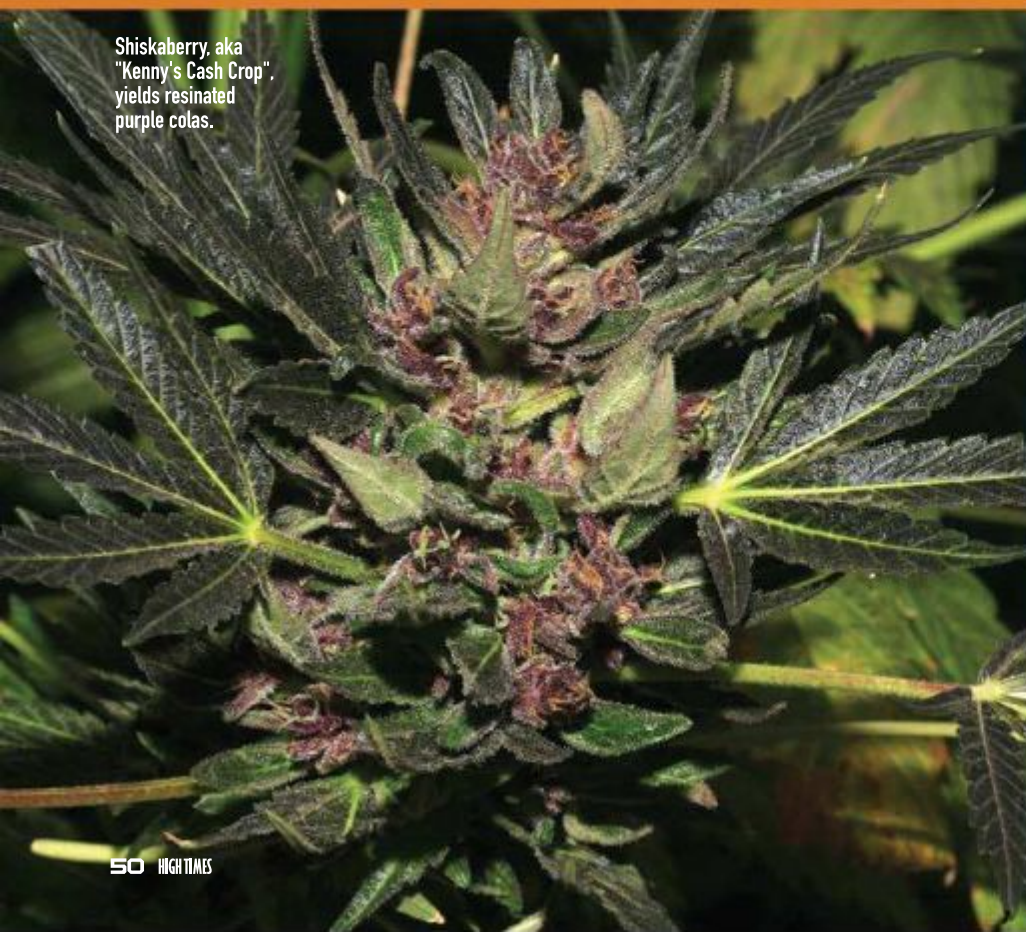


Maine's medical-marijuana growers face government regulations and new rules for an evolving cannabis-dispensary system fraught with both promise and peril.

Story by **DANNY DANKO**  
Photos by **BRIAN JAHN**

Shugglegum, a Shiskaberry x Bubblegum cross, grows thick in this greenhouse in Maine.

# THE STRAINS OF MAINE



Shiskaberry, aka "Kenny's Cash Crop", yields resinated purple colas.

## CHANGES IN VACATIONLAND

Since the enactment of the Maine Medical Marijuana Act of 1998, qualified patients in the state have had the right—if not always the ability—to grow or access cannabis to treat their ailments. Under the state law, six plants are allowed for patients, who can choose to grow their own or assign a designated caregiver to cultivate on their behalf. Caregivers are allowed up to five patients (six including themselves), and certified growers with more than two patients can have their gardens visited at any time by Maine's Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees and regulates the state's medical-marijuana system.

Recent actions by Democratic Governor John E. Baldacci, who appointed the Task Force to Implement the Maine Medical Marijuana Act and signed a bill into law that applies a 5 percent sales tax to medical marijuana, thrust Maine into the spotlight as only the fifth state to allow not-for-profit dispensaries (albeit only eight to start, one per district). With Alysia Melnick, public-policy counsel for the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU), urging changes to the strictly worded rules regarding the confidentiality of patient and caregiver data, as well as significantly funded forces within and outside the state vying to become the cannabis source for a potentially large number of patients, the growers of Maine are wondering exactly what to make of all the hoopla and backroom deals—and, more importantly, whose interests are really being served.









Plants of all kinds fill every corner of this productive Maine greenhouse.



Taking advantage of natural light results in bigger plants and heavier yields.



Five-gallon buckets hold plenty of organic medium for root growth.

vegetable oil as a biodiesel alternative to constantly burning fossil fuels. Plants are bottom-fed through an elaborate flood-and-drain system that wicks the water and nutrients up to the roots as needed. Other plants sit in 5-gallon buckets waiting to be handfed a unique (and secret) organic solution.

One of the growers, introduced to me as “Sam Adams,” explains that he doesn’t trust the government with anything, including the medical-marijuana situation. “I’ll put it to you like this, Danny: 60 percent of the people of Maine voted for medical marijuana, and then our legislature started meddling with it and added almost 30 pages of red tape. They’re making it near-impossible with all their bloated bureaucracy, when all we want to do is help the pa-

tients of Maine get what’s rightfully theirs. They’ve got their hands in our pockets with all their excessive rules and regulations, and that’s all they really want.”

Eric J. Friberg, who handles patient relations for Kirsten’s Compassion out of South Portland, describes some of the strains being developed here, including the Shugglegum or “Shuggles,” a Shiskaberry/Bubblegum cross with both a purple phenotype and a green one. They’re also growing everything from *sativa*-dominant Ditchweed to Kali Mist and Chemdog, plus experiments with Sour Diesel, AK-47, Juicy Fruit, Super Skunk, Master Kush, White Widow, K2, Romulan, Bubba Kush and a unique pheno of Shiskaberry they’ve dubbed “Kenny’s Cash Crop.”

Before I left, the furious farmers noted the ridiculousness of a law that allows them to grow six plants but carry only two and a half ounces at any time. “Let me get this straight,” Sam barked as he rolled another huge joint: “I can grow these massive bud bushes, but then only store or carry so much less than they actually produce? If that’s really the case, Danny, let’s hurry up and destroy some evidence!” While I didn’t see eye to eye with all of Sam’s political views, I could surely agree to that one.

## DON'T TREAD ON US: THE TEA PARTY GREENHOUSE

The first stop on my HIGH TIMES tour of Maine proved to be quite an eye-opener. The caregivers in charge of this innovative greenhouse were longtime Maine farmers completely fed up with their government and its broken establishment. Meanwhile, their medical-cannabis plants grow alongside rows of food crops, including squashes, peppers and tomatoes, with green herbs of every kind rising up in protest of bureaucratic red tape and a medical-cannabis regulatory system these growers say threatens to overgrow and destroy their best efforts, like an invasive species. Still, they strive to comply, and so each and every cannabis plant in the greenhouse has a designated patient’s name attached to it.

But let’s focus on pot and not politics for the moment. For starters, this outdoor greenhouse is supplemented with high-intensity discharge (HID) lighting and heated with a stove that brings down the humidity and warms the whole structure throughout the cold season, which in Maine is almost all year round. The growers here compost everything they can and use waste



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## INDOOR PERPETUAL HARVEST: THE SCIENTISTS

The second grow op we visited turned out to be an eye-opener as well. Before we got there, my guide explained that we were about to enter a virtual laboratory—and he was right. One half of this pair of growers, Bub and Ron, graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and their approach to cultivating and using cannabis reflects this high-tech background. Vials, glass jars, tubing, flasks and Petri dishes of all sizes were hung neatly on the wall, and a microscope was set up at the end of the table.

Their growing methods are equally brainy, with each plant on casters that allow it to be wheeled around with ease. These scientists grow their medicine for Maine Green Cross, and their system is set up so that they pull out six plants every week, achieving a perpetual harvest on a strict schedule by constantly taking clones to fill the vegging area and moving plants through the flowering room until ripe.

Easy Roots cloning trays are filled with an even ratio of 3 ml per gallon of General Hydroponics' storied three-part formula, meaning 3 ml each of brown Micro, green Grow and pink Bloom. Pests aren't an issue because the rooms are kept clean and constantly maintained and monitored. Fans keep the air flowing throughout, and all intake and exhaust tubes are filtered.

The scientists grow many strains at a time in order to satisfy patients, who in turn report back their findings on the medicinal results of their experiments. At the time of our visit, they were growing Tutti Frutti, White Lightning, O2 (a Cali/Orange hybrid) and Blue Lazer, which they described as a Northern Lights x Durban crossed with Blueberry. One of their favorites was the Wheelbarrow, so named because "you'll need one after you smoke it." Everything is grown using Advanced Nutrients products plus various additives and concoctions they dream up in the lab.



The microscope.

These methodical men are also cannabis-extraction specialists, making both dry-sift and bubble hash as well as alcohol-based sprays and various other tinctures and potions (including one reduction they were calling Red Hash, concocted with honey oil, acetone and three drops of white vinegar for nitrogen). With their perpetual-harvest system, they have plenty of plant and leaf material to use in experiments, which means their patients also get a wide variety of options for their varying needs. Asked about the new political developments in Maine, all the scientists would say was: "We need a more reasonable law."



Dried Guava Chem.



Hashish made from Tutti Frutti tastes and burns as good as it sounds.





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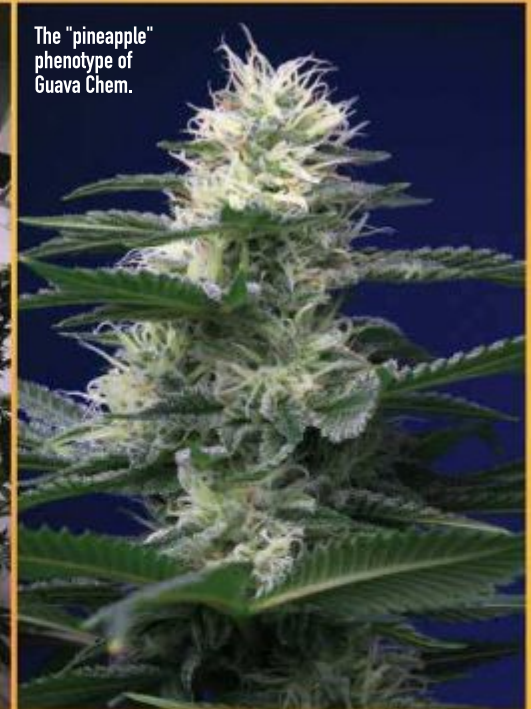
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Plants in their 6th week of flowering nearing harvest.



The "pineapple" phenotype of Guava Chem.



### GARDEN THREE: THE MAINE WELLNESS GROUP

We concluded our statewide tour with a visit to the Maine Wellness Group (MWG), a locally operated, not-for-profit caregiver collective vying for one of those elusive state-dispensary licenses. MWG has united with other in-state caregiver groups, including Maine Green Cross, and board member Igor Rakuz explained that their focus was on producing locally grown, high-quality medicine.

MWG has a huge catalog of heirloom strains that have been meticulously collected from around the world by local growers. Traveling to various MWG member grows was like touring the Northeast's wine country. I was impressed not only by their varieties, but also by MWG's comprehensive patient database; their level of professionalism matched the finest of the West Coast dispensaries. HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) compliance and patient confidentiality are being met on every level, including a patient-centric social network.

The real magic in their grow operations is found in their living soil. The Maine Wellness Group utilizes the biodiversity of microorganisms, mycorrhizae and bacilli in their home-brewed bio-activated teas, which actually smell sweet until they add the local sea vegetables. The growers working with MWG focus on local organics and compost in their medicinal-plant production, placing huge emphasis on natural techniques throughout the production and harvesting process. Also, one of them gave me a great new cloning tip: Since the active ingredient of store-bought cloning solutions to root cuttings is extracted from the willow tree, this clever grower simply takes the tips of new willow growth and boils them down to make a cheap and natural cloning solution that he joked "could draw roots from a popsicle stick."

As we puffed on a huge spliff of some well-flushed and well-cured Guava Chem, he explained their ganja-growing philosophy, as well as the group's mission statement: "We keep it simple. The earth is far wiser than all of us. We try to follow the path laid out by nature. Genetics are only part of delivering safe, healthy medicine; growing



Rooted clones under domes wait for their chance to vegetate and flower.

plants in bio-diverse and synergistic mediums lets plants express the full potential of their phenotypes, tannins, cannabinoids and other medicinal properties."

The two rooms I visited each had two 400-watt and two 600-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights, with a 1,000-watt HPS in the middle. The Sun Twist light spinner rotates the grow bulbs and ensures full coverage of the plants' canopy space. One room is used for the first month of flowering and another for the second, allowing them to harvest a nice bud bounty every four weeks.

All of the water used goes through reverse-osmosis (RO) treatment, and the plants are grown in sphagnum peat moss (commonly sold as Pro-Mix) with added perlite. A bottom layer of rocks in each growing container ensures proper drainage to avoid perpetually soggy roots. Another interesting plant-feeding regimen they've incorporated—and were very excited about—is the use of diluted Sea-90 salts. These aren't the typical Dead Sea salts used in commercial nutrient production, but living, unrefined, mined sea minerals harvested from hard-to-find locations. (For more information on this fascinating nutrient, check out the book *Sea Energy Agriculture* by Dr. Maynard Murray or visit [seaagri.com](http://seaagri.com).)

Natural solutions also define their approach to pest control: "If you haven't gotten spider mites or powdery mildew, you haven't been growing enough. There's three kinds of growers: ones that have fucked up, ones that have yet to fuck up, and the ones that won't admit it. The key is to learn from your mistakes and always look for natural solutions." Igor and the rest of the MWG grow-

ers use a combination of neem oil and predatory ladybugs for pest control. If things really get hectic, he goes with some pyrethrins, but never after the fourth week of flowering.

Strain-wise, they've found two phenotypes of the Guava Chem, one they call Pineapple and the other Guava. The Pineapple is a bit wispiery, but they're both super-strong, with *indica*-heavy medicinal properties that are perfect for patients with head trauma or nerve damage. Breeding experiments have also resulted in a new strain called Skunky Brewster, which consists of a Chem D female pollinated by the *indica*-dominant 3D. Igor is also hard at work creating a strain called Mr. Butch, in honor of a fallen New England legend from the Boston area, the Mayor of Kenmore Square.

As the subject moved once again to the many changes on Maine's medical-marijuana landscape, Igor told me: "The solution to our problem here in Maine would be a simple CSA [community-supported agriculture] system with no limit on caregivers, patients or nonprofit dispensaries. All of these outside forces were astonished to find an organized coalition of local farmers interested in keeping things Maine-grower-owned and -operated. Anyone who's really spent any time here shouldn't have been quite so surprised."

### MAINE'S FUTURE

The real story of medical marijuana in Maine right now is the plight of the smaller local farmers against a sell-out government, huge agribusiness interests, and outside forces from other medical states such as California and Colorado—all elbowing in on the substantial amounts of money this industry will produce.

Luckily, the savvy pot patients of Maine have many options, including the most important one: the right to produce their own medicine. Irresponsible and greedy caregivers will always exist, along with politicians and outsiders seeking to line their pockets at the expense of the locals. Who will prevail depends on the willingness of people to stand up for what they believe in and their ability to persist in the face of pressure—and Mainers have plenty of both. ✨





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# 2010

## CANNABIS CUP PREVIEW

Let's be honest right from the start. Today, there are a lot of pot competitions going on all around the globe, with quite a few happening right here within the borders of the United States. However, there is only one true Cup event, and it happens every year (for the past 22 years!) in Amsterdam each November. That competition attracts the biggest names and players in cannabis from around the world, crowning a champion in four distinct categories and naming the best marijuana on Earth for the year. The name of *the* contest is the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup... and it's only a few months away.

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

### HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup History

To understand the real-deal Cannabis Cup, one has to understand its origins, its deeply seeded roots. Going all the way back to 1987, the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup was originally created by Cup founder (and then HT editor-in-chief) Steve Hager when he became inspired by stories of the "spectacular California harvest festivals of the '70s." In those days, seed breeders were not nearly as prevalent as they are today, and the terms "seed company" and "seed bank" were virtually synonymous (whereas today, seed banks are largely distributors or retailers for many different seed companies).

In the early days, there were only four clubs competing in the Cannabis Cup: the Super *Sativa* Seed Club, the Sensi Seed Club, the Seed Bank and Cultivator's Choice. Nevil, one of the legendary godfathers of cannabis genetics, founded the Seed Bank and quickly bought out Cultivator's Choice, working with those genetics and using some of them to dominate the first few years of competition.

Together, Hager and Nevil, along with other legendary names such as Ben Dronkers from Sensi and Sam the Skunkman from the Flying Dutchman, began to slowly build what would become a global phenomenon decades later. The HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup was soon joined by many others, including new expert judges, growers, connoisseurs, enthusiasts, activists and fans. As more and more groups from the cannabis community came to Amsterdam each year to partake, more and more Amsterdam coffeshops began to take notice.

By the fourth Cup (1991), coffeshops began entering, due mostly to the targeting of seed companies around the world via a DEA crackdown known as Operation Green Merchant, which forced many to go underground and withdraw, temporarily, from competition. However, this opened the door for the public to join in on the voting and began the modern era of the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup. For the first time, anyone could come to Amsterdam and legally sample and vote on the best strains in Holland. As time passed, that notion changed to what has now become truly the *world's* best strains, as seed companies from countries all over the world come to compete.





The Leidseplein is a nightlife hot spot for stoners.



The Holy Grail:  
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Cannabis Cup.  
Many compete,  
few succeed.



A glimpse of the fabled celebrity judges' quarters at an undisclosed location.



## How It Works

Amsterdam's relaxed attitude towards marijuana is what truly allows the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup to operate and have multiple layers of competition. Today, the main event—known simply as “the Cannabis Cup”—is comprised of cannabis entries from Amsterdam's most elite coffeeshops. Cannabis Cup judges, comprised of anyone from the general public who purchases a judge's pass, visit each of these coffeeshops—individually (like a pub crawl)—to purchase, smoke and judge that shop's entry.

At the end of the week, the judges return to the Cup's main expo hall to privately cast their votes. The winner is crowned the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup champion. For the past three years, the Cup has been hosted at a posh, two-level nightclub called the Power Zone ... and we will return to that venue again this year. The Power Zone, which boasts three bars, two soundstages and a back deck overlooking a canal, also houses over 50 booths that showcase everything from seed companies to grow equipment to paraphernalia retailers. During the entire week of the Cup, events are held at the Power Zone, including musical acts, grow seminars, talk shows and comedy acts. Purchasing a judge's pass allows each person entry into the venue every day of the week, as well as access to all major parties and concerts held nightly at various locations around the city. At the end of the week, everyone reconvenes at the HIGH TIMES party, which includes a concert and the awards ceremony.

Beyond the Cannabis Cup champion, numerous other awards are also handed out, including perhaps the most prestigious: the *Indica* and *Sativa* Cups in the Breeder/Seed Company category. HIGH TIMES has incorporated these specialized categories of competition, geared specifically to breeders and seed companies, because Amsterdam also attracts the world's best growers and breeders of cannabis. While the first few Cups exclusively featured seed companies and breeders, the event morphed into a primarily coffeeshop competition for many of its middle years, until the onslaught of seed companies were re-introduced to the market and HIGH TIMES decided to create Cannabis Cup categories just for these breeders. However, it should also be noted that some coffeeshops also have their own seed companies and subsequently enter both or all three categories (not to mention the two hash categories)—thus, sometimes you'll see a name and a strain that have won more than one award.

Only breeders with seed companies can enter these Cup competitions, as the winner's seeds must be readily available to the people. Each year, a celebrity panel of judges is assembled to blind-test these entries and determine a winner. This panel is usually comprised of experts in the cannabis industry as well as a mix of HIGH TIMES staffers and a few *actual* celebrities that we deem worthy (recent celebrity judges have included the likes of Tommy Chong, Redman and Ky-Mani Marley).



Every entry is sampled, but not all contestants make it to the end of the joint!

## The Complete HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup Champions List

- 1988 - Skunk #1, Cultivator's Choice
- 1989 - Early Pearl/Skunk #1 x Northern Lights #5/Haze, The Seed Bank
- 1990 - Northern Lights #5, The Seed Bank
- 1991 - Skunk, Free City
- 1992 - Haze x Skunk #1, Homegrown Fantasy
- 1993 - Haze x Northern Lights #5, Sensi Seed Bank
- 1994 - Jack Herer, Sensi Seed Bank
- 1995 - White Widow, The Green House
- 1996 - White Russian, De Dampkring
- 1997 - Peace Maker, De Dampkring
- 1998 - Super Silver Haze, The Green House
- 1999 - Super Silver Haze, The Green House
- 2000 - Blueberry, The Noon
- 2001 - Sweet Tooth, Barney's
- 2002 - Morning Glory, Barney's
- 2003 - Hawaiian Snow, The Green House
- 2004 - Amnesia Haze, Barney's
- 2005 - Willie Nelson, Barney's
- 2006 - Arjan's Ultra Haze, The Green House
- 2007 - G-13 Haze, Barney's
- 2008 - Super Lemon Haze, The Green House
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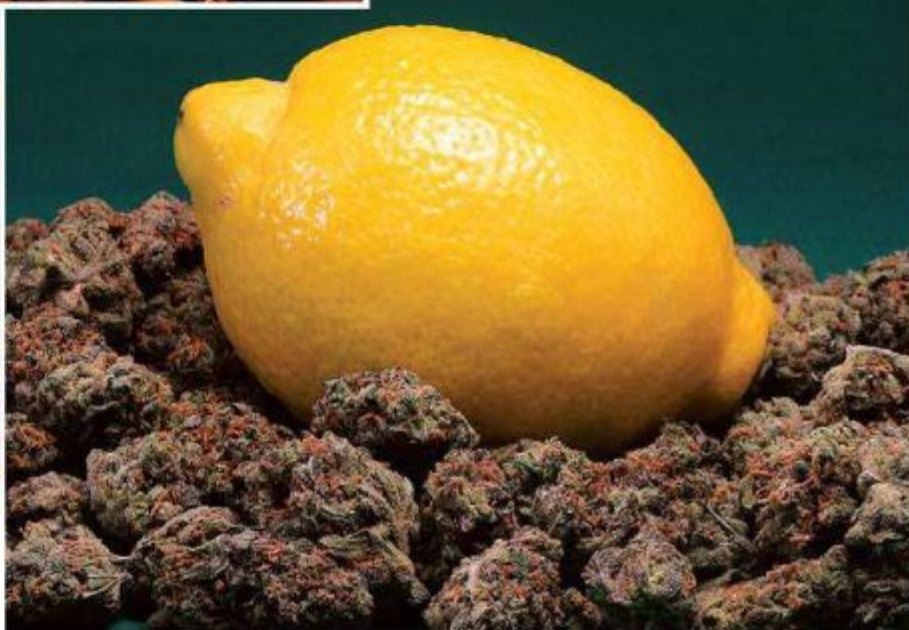


Big Buddha (left) looks on as massive joints fire up!

The Super Lemon Haze has taken home the Coffeeshop Cup two years in a row.



Booth vendors throughout the expo show off seeds, buds and hash.



### Flashbacks From Last Year's Cup

Last year was a landmark occasion for the HIGH TIMES

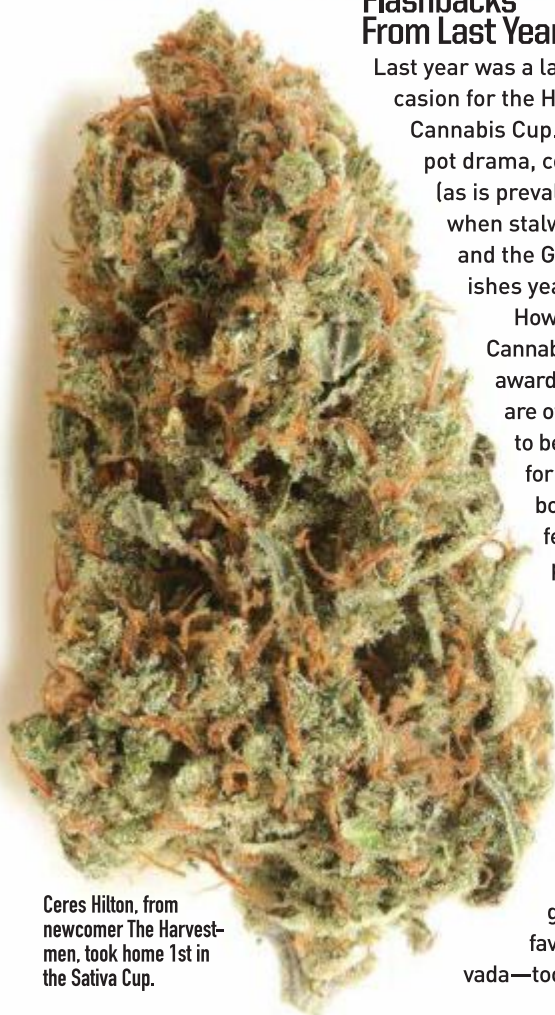
Cannabis Cup. In case you are new to the world of pot drama, conspiracy theories about each year (as is prevalent with any serious competition) when stalwart coffeeshops such as Barney's and the Green House trade off first-place finishes year after year.

However, as explained earlier, while the Cannabis Cup (voted on by the public) is awarded for the best coffeeshop weed, there are other—perhaps more prestigious—Cups to be won in the seed-company categories for Best *Indica* and Best *Sativa*. And though both the Green House and Barney's coffeeshops also have their own seed-company subsidiaries that often finish high up in the top three of the *Indica* and *Sativa* Cups, last year saw two

entirely new seed companies take home first-place Cups in each category.

The Harvestmen, an up-and-coming seed company based in the UK, took home first place in the *Sativa* Cup for their entry, Ceres Hilton, while HortiLab, a seed company out of Germany, took home first place in the *Indica* Cup with Starbud. If that doesn't silence the critics, nothing ever will.

Newcomers aside, there were a few entries that are fast becoming perennial winners. In the coffeeshop category, Super Lemon Haze from the Green House United won the Cannabis Cup for the second year in a row, giving the Green House seven overall first-place finishes and a new HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup record. Also in the coffeeshop category, the Green Place took home a third-place finish for the second time in as many years—the only two years they have entered. Their entry last year was the Headband Kush, which placed in the coffeeshop category, and their entry in 2008 was an immaculately grown Chocolope. That Chocolope came from seeds developed by DNA Genetics, who are also an annual favorite. DNA's *Indica* Cup entry last year—an OG #18 from their choice seed-stock subsidiary, Reserva Privada—took home a strong second-place finish.



Ceres Hilton, from newcomer The Harvestmen, took home 1st in the *Sativa* Cup.



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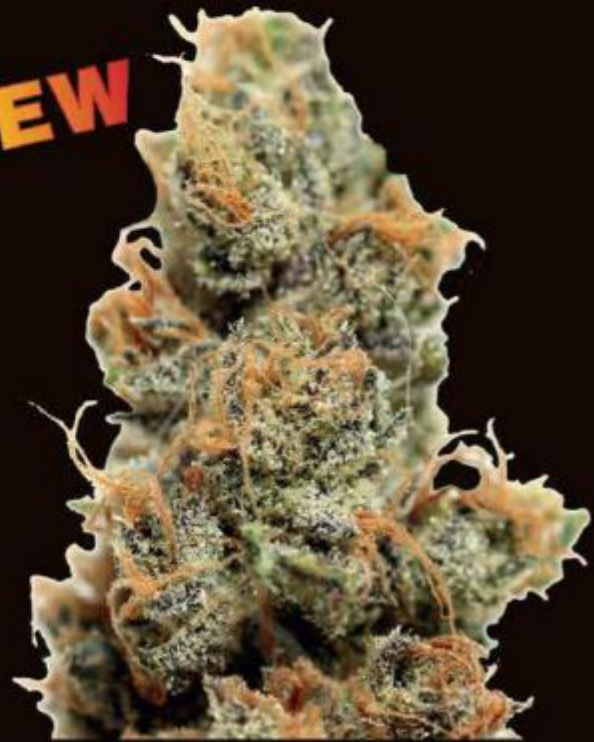
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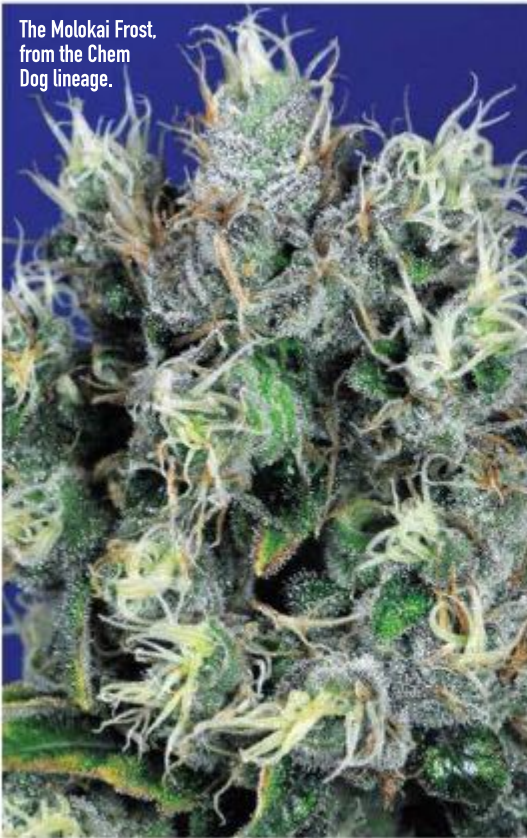
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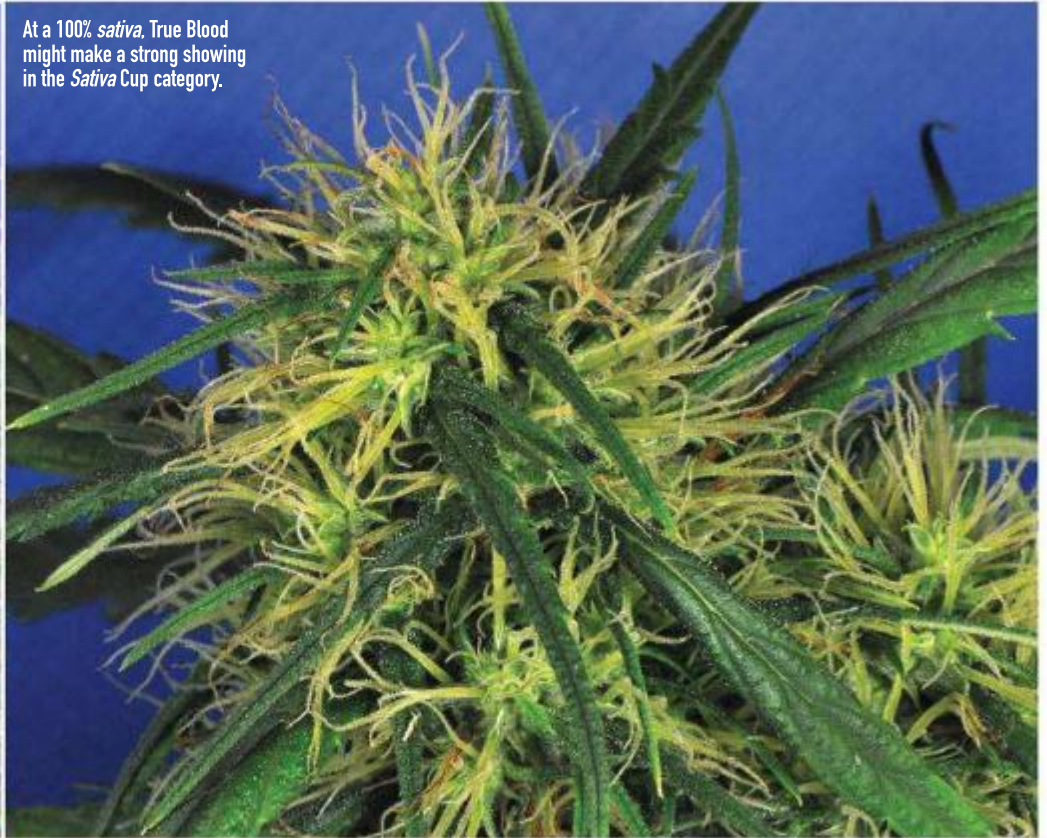
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The Molokai Frost, from the Chem Dog lineage.



At a 100% *sativa*, True Blood might make a strong showing in the *Sativa* Cup category.



## A Sneak Peek for 2010

This year, for the first time in the 22-year history of the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup, a seed company from Hawaii will be entering their strains into competition in Amsterdam. Cultivation correspondent South Bay Ray recently caught up with Johnny Dope from Hawaii's Supreme Beans to catch a glimpse of what's coming at this year's Cup!

### What's the vision of Supreme Beans?

Simply put, it's our goal to provide Heirloom Hawaiian genetics to the world. We're also going to continue creating new varieties of medicinal marijuana using powerful local strains available here in Hawaii.

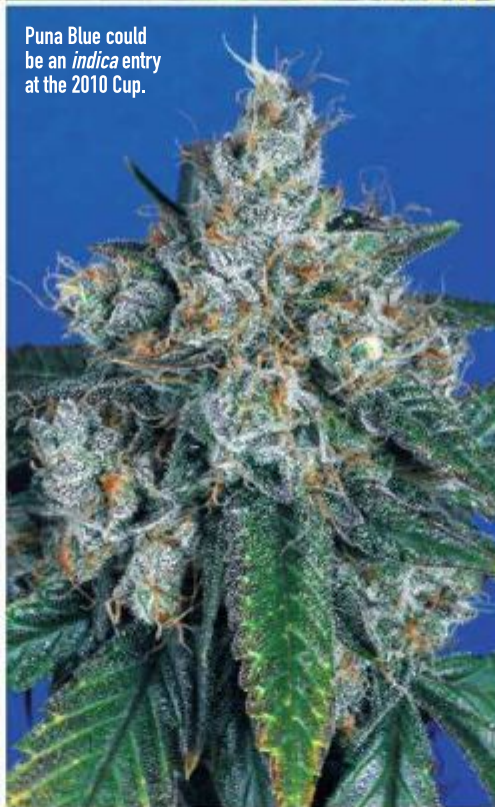
You've got some beautiful plants, and I'm very impressed with how well the buds are grown, trimmed and cured. Where did you learn these skills?

Actually, I learned a lot by attending the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam. I love the Cannabis Cup! Out of all the expos I've worked, it's my favorite. Beginning in 2006, I've had the privilege of working with Ed Borg at Delta-9 Labs. They're a great company with some awesome genetics. Through Delta-9, I was introduced to a few key players in the scene like Big Buddha, Paradise, Sensi Seeds and—probably the most influential for me—DNA Genetics. Since then, I've been able to work the THC Expo, the UK Hemp Expo and Spannabis.

What's up for the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup this year?

I'm really excited! Not only am I going to be there, but this year we'll be entering three categories with two different strains in the competitions.

Puna Blue could be an *indica* entry at the 2010 Cup.



### What strains? Which competitions?

Molokai Frost will be our coffeeshop [via the Trinity Coffeeshop in Amsterdam] and our seed company's *indica* entry. True Blood will be the seed company's *sativa* entry.

Molokai Frost was grown for years on the small rural island of Molokai. It's a 60/40 *indica-sativa* hybrid with an eight- to 10-week flowering time. She has that weird petrol/fresh-cut grass funk that leads me to believe she's an ancestor to the ChemDog, Kush and Diesel strains. Molokai Frost is a heavy-duty narcotic medicine, great for pain relief and sleeplessness. It's a "one-hit quit" or a "one-and-done" strain, meaning it doesn't take much to get the job done.

True Blood is a 100 percent *sativa*. It's possibly the real, original Maui Wowie. She's a jungle beast with a super-long flowering time of 12 to 14 weeks. In cooler climates, like above 3,000 feet here in Hawaii, True Blood produces massive colas. The high is electric—it's great for hiking, adventuring and sensual activities! Old-school smells and flavors will take you straight back to the past, and the high will make you feel like a kid again.

### Tell us about the Puna Blue and the Dog that I photographed.

Puna Blue is a 75/25 *indica-sativa* hybrid that typically grows in a single main cola. Her growth pattern is similar to a Moroccan Hash Plant. The flavor is intense and spicy, with a sweet blueberry/tropical background. The high tends to lean toward the *indica* side with a heavy, narcotic stone. She's originally from the Puna district on the Big Island of Hawaii and is a true island gem.

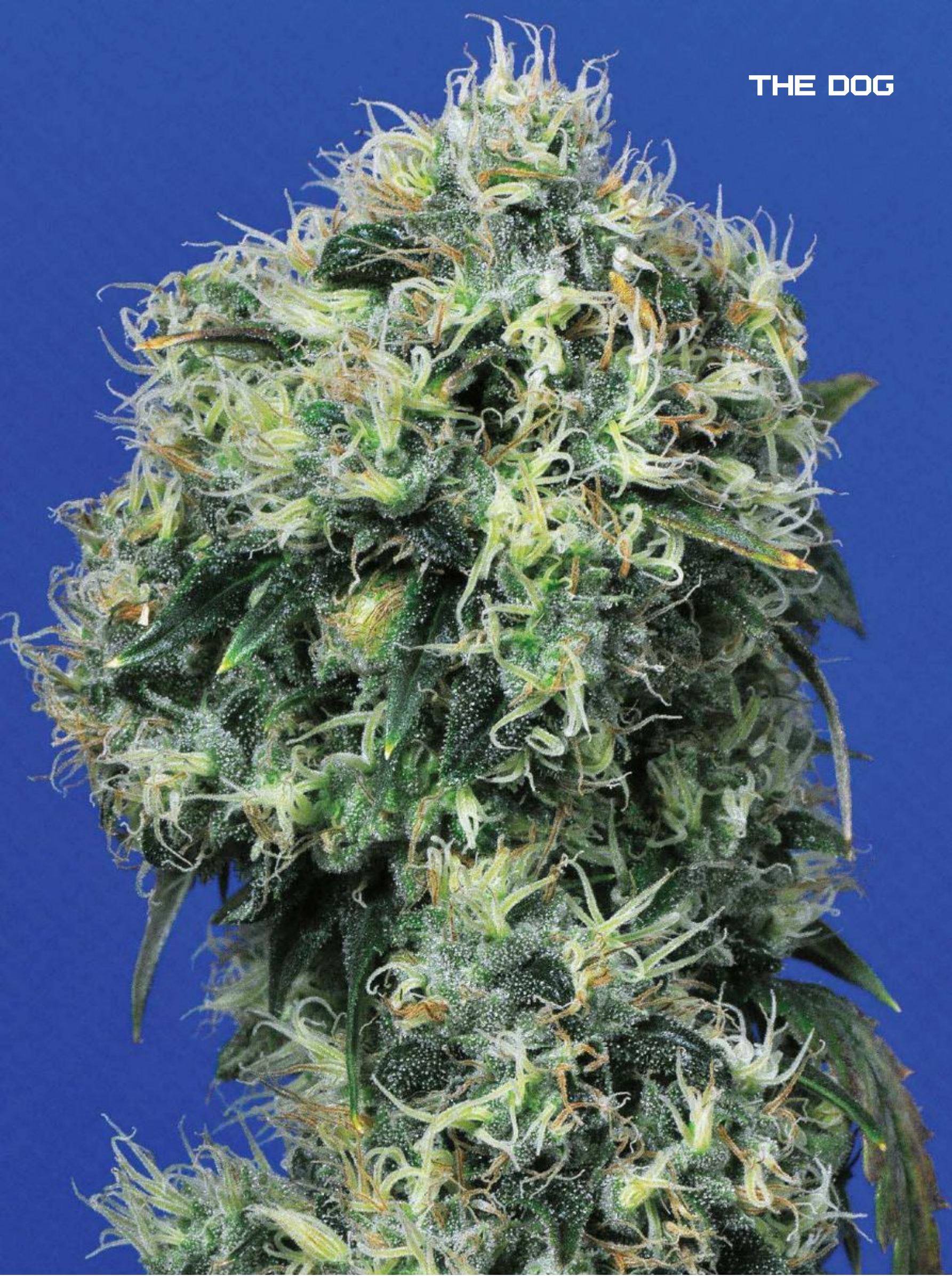
The Dog is a Maui strain that's been around since the late '90s. It's very similar to the ChemDog D strain from the mainland, but it has a darker green color and broader leaves. She finishes in eight to nine weeks and has high resin content. It's one of the only plants I've ever had that actually grows and tastes better when fed with synthetic nutrients. She's usually not the largest yielder in your garden, but for sure a keeper.

### How does one acquire Heirloom Hawaiian strains from Supreme Beans?

Our seeds aren't available to the public yet. One can try our ganja at the Trinity Coffeeshop in Amsterdam at this year's HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup. In the very near future, our seeds will be made available via DNA Genetics. Information on all our strains will soon be obtainable at [supremebeans.net](http://supremebeans.net)—currently, the website is under construction. Both feminized and regular seeds will be released.



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# Nico's List of Coffeeshops to Hit in November

## The Dolphins

One of Amsterdam's oldest spots to grab a coffee and a nice bag of weed, the Dolphins is ideally located just off the ever-popular Leidseplein square. Its quaint atmosphere and cozy basement haven't changed much in the last 20 years, and its under-the-sea theme is prevalent throughout the house—including on the painted ocean-mural walls. Downstairs, large, round couches encompass coffee tables that are great for accommodating large groups of friends (as well as tobacco aficionados) who enjoy lounging around for hours at a time.

Additionally, the Dolphins is one of the few coffeeshops that offers free Wi-Fi for patrons traveling with laptops, making this establishment a great place to get work done or keep up on communications. And besides carrying a great menu of green herb, this coffee house is also green-conscious, using recycled materials to keep the Earth—and dolphins—safe!

In 2009, the Dolphins made an impressive showing, finishing fourth in the balloting with their entry, White Dolphin. This year, look for them to follow up with a newer, more stable hybrid of last year's entry ... or perhaps something entirely new. Whatever it is, you can be sure the Dolphins will be playing hard to finish in the top three for the first time since 2002, when they placed second in the hashish category with their Royal Dolphin hash.



## Bij

A sister establishment to Boerejongens, the Bij coffeeshop is located just around the corner, doubling the reward for the adventurous who trek out to the outlying coffee houses of the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup competition. Spacious and decorated with antiques and artifacts from generations ago, this space is another local smoke shop that delivers big on local flavors.

Although this residential-area shop also prohibits smoking, it's a place to find great local strains at affordable prices, not to mention tasty and relatively inexpensive pieces of hashish. The Bij is, as the Dutch would say, a "get-and-go" establishment and has become a hub for local smokers. A large table in the center of the room is equipped for rolling your own and having a chat with other customers. This summer, some of the nicest herbs on the menu included a great variation of Cheese as well as a Super Silver Haze for under €10 a gram.

In 2009, the Bij entered a superb Amnesia x Lavender that was both tasty and potent. Look for the shop to follow up this year with something just as stony and with excellent aroma and strength ... perhaps an Amnesia Cheese?



This year, as part of our Cup preview, we here at HIGH TIMES thought it might be useful for Cup-goers and readers to get a glimpse of a few of Amsterdam's prominent coffeeshops. The coffeeshops not only compete in the Cup but also offer judges a diverse selection of ambiance, hangout space, food, drink and (of course) pot menus!

Below is a list of a few select coffeeshops that have been competing in the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup for years, each offering its own distinct flavor and adding to the celebration of diversity, community and really good cannabis!

## Bluebird Coffeeshop

An absolute must-visit on any coffeeshop tour, the Bluebird Coffeeshop resides in a young, hip area of town where college students and backpacking tourists abound. Both the exterior and interior are inviting, beckoning passersby to stop in for a relaxing smoke and friendly conversation. Inside, the two floors are equipped with a bar, a smoking room (for tobacco mixes) and regular smoking areas (pure weed only) that overlook the bustling streets below.

The ambiance, décor and attitude of the Bluebird reflect a Caribbean-like paradise with hanging hammocks and colorful, jungle-style murals on the walls. The music, which is tops among Amsterdam's coffee houses, features the likes of Miles Davis, Bob Marley and other soulful, funky, reggae-style beats. A long menu of ganja is available, plus every possible accoutrement for smoking. Their menu this summer boasted some newer names, including a San Fernando Valley Kush from the original OG lineage. Look for the Bluebird to make some noise in this year's competition and be sure to stop in for some hang time—you won't be disappointed!



## Boerejongens

For the adventurous Cup-goer who wants to truly experience the city of Amsterdam and all its local hamlets, Boerejongens is a unique coffeeshop situated on the outskirts of town. Priding itself on an extensive menu of both hashish and buds, Boerejongens provides a great sampling of both exotic and local fare.

Nestled within a very typical Dutch neighborhood, Boerejongens offers some unexpected pleasures: There's something truly uplifting about buying pot over the counter while looking out the large windows at children playing in a schoolyard, reinforcing the country's liberal (and educational) approach to regulating cannabis. While getting here is certainly not for the faint of heart, once you arrive, the abundance of locals will tell any smoker that this is the place for finding that elusive "diamond in the rough."

On a typical weekend afternoon, it's not uncommon to see a line out the door of loyal patrons waiting for their favorite strains. For the economical or casual smoker, very nice strains such as the original Jack Herer can be purchased for a mere €6 a gram. More expensive items, such as the savory import hashes, are also popular. However, be prepared to roll up and roll out, as this shop has a strict non-smoking policy that is respectful of neighboring homes and families.

## Rusland

Rusland is an elegantly appointed, Russian-themed coffee house located just outside the famed Red Light District in the city's Centrum. However, the claim to fame for this old-time coffeeshop is that it was the first one licensed in Amsterdam, as evidenced by its T-shirts (also for sale) bearing the "No. 1 Permit" logo. While Rusland wasn't the very first coffeeshop to open in Amsterdam, it was the lucky winner of the first government-sanctioned permit when the licensing process began.

Established in 1974, Rusland (which means "Russia" in Dutch) was actually named for Rusland Street, which in turn was named after the Rus family, who owned the land over 450 years ago! The shop is known for its fine glass smoking instruments and a strong menu of fairly priced marijuana strains. There are numerous works of art by local glass blowers on display, as well as outdoor seating for those who want to enjoy the nice weather.

Last year, Rusland entered a pristine version of White Russian as their coffeeshop entry. Expect them to come through this year with a remix of their excellent genetic stock and make a top-three finish!



## De Dampkring

De Dampkring is a brilliant coffee house that is seemingly geared for the intelligent socialite.

Always full to the brim, De Dampkring's patrons are usually chatting away with one another over a fresh-squeezed orange juice or fruit smoothie (both of which are out of this world, by the way), all the while smoking some of the best pot in Amsterdam.

The menu is as smart as the clientele, a testament to De Dampkring's good management, with a mix of both old-school and new, exotic strains that match the eclectic conversation heard about the room.

A surprise flavor listed on their recent marijuana menu was the Mexican Haze. This hybrid of a Mexican *sativa* crossed with the A-5 Haze from Nevil himself is largely reminiscent of what Americans might know as "Miami Haze" back in the States. With a sweet and pungent taste and ultra-cerebral high, these nuggets were a hidden gem on an already stellar menu lineup.

Always showing up with an original and unique entry, De Dampkring entered the *Sativa* Cup in 2008 with Ocean's 12 Haze and the *Indica* Cup with Cloud 9 under their umbrella seed company, Dampkring Classics. Last year, they took some time off to develop future seed-company entries and flew solo with their coffeeshop entry, John Sinclair (whose namesake also happened to be attending the Cup that year). This year, we expect nothing less than another classic entry from De Dampkring—but, as always, that information is top-secret.





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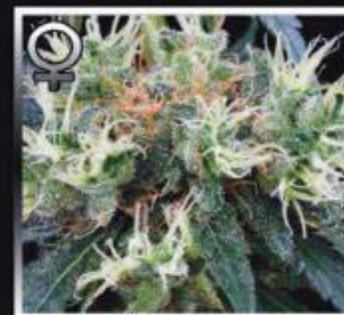
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# OIL AND WATER

Still recovering from the ravages of Hurricane Katrina, the small fishing village of Venice, Louisiana watches and waits as another disaster heads their way.

Story by Chris Simunek | Illustrations by Amitage Shanks

## Venice, LA, May 20, 2010

Driving south on Highway 23 from New Orleans you see the refineries right from the go—beautiful silver spires pointed straight at heaven like futuristic metropolises cut from a science fiction movie and pasted along the mighty Mississippi River. I wish I knew what function each gleaming substructure performed in the process of turning crude oil siphoned from beneath the ocean floor into the gasoline that propels America from here to there, but I don't.

For over 4000 years man has been utilizing petroleum for one thing or another. It is said that asphalt, the black tar-like sludge that is still a component in the design of our roads, was used as mortar in the construction of the Tower of Babel. The Tower of Babel appears in the book of Genesis as a project conceived by man to pay homage, not to the glory of God, but to man's own magnificence. This really pissed God off, so he scattered the people who built it across the earth and muddled their language so they could no longer communicate with each other. Confusion was their punishment. Like most building projects, the people who actually laid the bricks were probably just regular folk hoping to feed their families, but they felt the wrath of Yahweh just the same.

I'm traveling this road for the purpose of seeing two things I've never before witnessed: 1. An alligator living in the wild and 2. An unprecedented manmade ecological disaster. It's one month after the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon rig, and oil has been spewing unchecked from the bottom of the sea 41 miles off the coast of Louisiana at a rate said to be anywhere between 1,500,000 and 2,500,000 gallons a day.

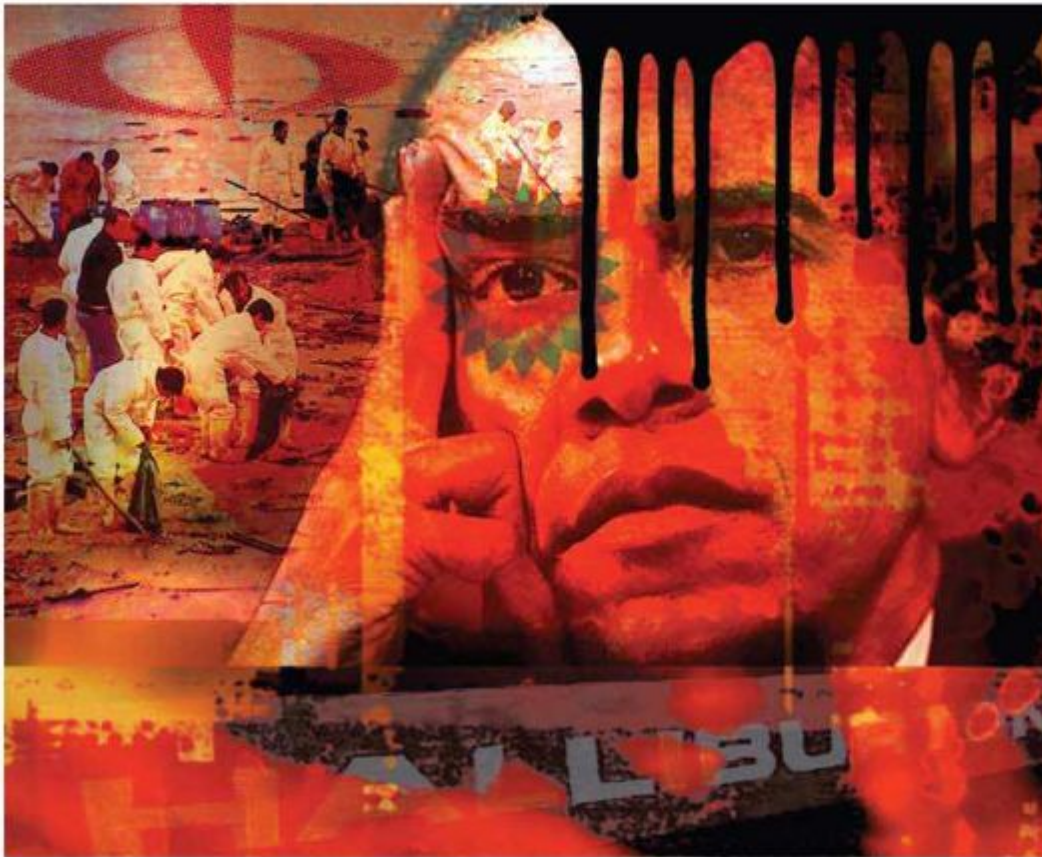
Along for the ride is my wife Rebekah (the truth is we'd planned this trip months before the explosion), and behind the wheel of the Ford Explorer that we're cruising in is Ashley Boudreaux, *HIGH TIMES'* cannabis cooking columnist [see her response to the spill on page 118]. Ashley's bloodline goes back five generations in Louisiana, and if you ever visit the Confederate Museum in New Orleans, you can find the uniform of her great grandfather, Major Daniel Ostrander Merwin, under glass there. You will recognize it because the right sleeve of the grey frock coat is missing from where a cannonball blew his arm off.

As we drive down 23, I keep my eyes peeled for gators in the grassy trenches along the road, but all I see are rows of trailers, new homes built high on stilts in anticipation of the next flood, and little white crosses where people I never knew met their makers in tragic auto accidents. Every time you get in your car, you roll the dice with your life. If you live in a society in which machines play an integral role in its prosperity, well, I guess there's a gamble there, too.

This area was decimated by Katrina and is only starting to get back on its feet. There are two industries down here, oil and fishing. There are a few bars, a convenience store and a restaurant here and there, and that's it. Sometimes you hit a patch of lifeless grey tree skeletons that choked on Katrina's salt water, covered in boggy green vines until they almost look alive.

An hour and 45 minutes south of New Orleans we come to a sign that says we've reached the end of the southernmost road in Louisiana. I've seen news reports from Venice all month long, but we are strangely alone here save for a





## This is “Obama’s Plague of Blood” as depicted in the Book of Exodus.

few pelicans, gulls and terns as yet untouched by the horror heading steadily their way. Occasionally we’ll see a nutria dart out into the road, one of the massive local swamp rats that I’ve been told are hunted for dog food. There are shrimp trawlers tied to rickety docks clanging rhythmically with the tide, and the ground is covered with empty bottles, food containers and other refuse. The sun is pouring down heat like a volcano.

The oil has yet to hit here, so I’m looking at Venice in its (almost) pristine state. Somewhere offshore the folks at BP are trying to fit a metal cup over the broken pipes that are flooding the water with oil and are failing. President Obama, in the first blatantly moronic act of his presidency, keeps reiterating his confidence that Team BP is the best choice for the job of stopping the flow and cleaning up the mess. If you ask me, that’s like saying Charles Manson would have been the best choice to perform CPR on Sharon Tate.

By the time you read this, the road to this catastrophe will be old news—the kickbacks, the lax regulation, the safety violation waivers, the shoddy construction, the crystal meth parties between inspectors and oil company reps—it seems to me there are more hoops to jump through to open a hot dog stand on a New York street corner than there are to dig for oil a mile down from the surface of the ocean, where the pressure, at about one ton per square inch, could crush a man’s skull like a beer can. BP, Transocean, Halliburton—they are all trying to lay the blame at each others’ feet in a laughable three-way circle jerk of corporate denial.

Pundits across nation are trying to label this “Obama’s Katrina” or “Obama’s 9/11” or

“Obama’s Iranian Hostage Crisis.” I will offer my own opinion—that this is “Obama’s Plague of Blood” as depicted in the Book of Exodus. I wonder whose “ass” Obama will “kick” when it starts raining frogs?

I don’t know who was in charge of the Deepwater Horizon rig leading up to the blast, but I know who is in charge now, and you can call him Yahweh, Jehovah, God, Allah, Jah, or any name you choose that for you represents that force of nature so far beyond man’s control that it appears divine.

Back in the car Ashley is driving around trying to find a street she remembers, one with a funny name. After crisscrossing the mottled roads we arrive at Halliburton Road and we all have a laugh.

I suggest we hit the local bar, the Den Lounge, a roadhouse joint advertising something called the “238 Lingerie Night” next Thursday. Inside it’s dark and cool compared to the humid afternoon we’re trying to escape. It’s a big place, with a dozen or so men inside and Bob Seger on the jukebox.

I ask the lady behind the bar what “238” means and she says, “2:38—that’s what time all the guys get horny.”

Ashley buys a round for the bar and Johnny, a big guy with a booming voice that can be heard in all corners of the room, starts talking to us. He’s wearing a white baseball cap planted backwards on his head, and when I tell him Rebekah and I are from New York, he gets excited and informs us he’s from New Jersey, down here working on the cleanup for thirty bucks an hour.

“The way they told me about it, I thought I was going to be staying at the Marriott,” he says. “I’m in a trailer with seven other dudes sleeping in bunk beds.”

I ask him what he’s doing and he says he’s supposed to be laying boom, but nobody out on the water seems to know where to put it.

“I ask the guy from the Coast Guard where we’re supposed to drop this stuff and he tells me he don’t know. Everybody out there’s got his head up his ass. No one is in charge.”

(Of course I know that God is in charge, and He’s got a kind of hands-off approach to management, and probably enjoys the confusion that abounds, but I keep that fact to myself.)

Johnny’s more interested in talking to Rebekah than me and, I find out later, creeps her out with a whole bunch of talk about his bad marriage, insisting that her marriage (meaning mine) is probably crap, too. If it was 2:38, this guy would have been dangerous.

You can tell the locals because their skin isn’t a pinkish tan like Jersey Johnny’s. The fishermen, their skin is nearly brown with a leathery sheen that makes it almost impossible to decipher their tattoos. And they’re not talking about the mess in the Gulf. They’re getting loaded, laughing with each other. I’m sure the spill is on their minds, but it is absent from their lips, at least within earshot of this New Yorker. Ashley tells them she’s from New Orleans and they half-jokingly tell her that in Venice, anyone north of Empire is considered a Yankee. (Empire is about 15 miles up the road).

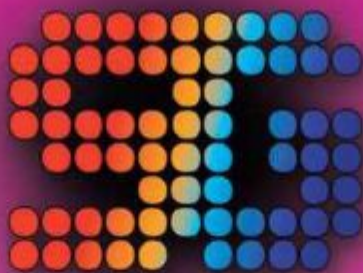
Ashley is talking the virtue of brown shrimp versus white with a man named Ray. Ashley prefers the white shrimp, Ray’s opinion is that they’re all good. In an attempt to throw the shrimpers a bone before the black tide chokes off every living thing in the Gulf, the brown shrimp season was opened early, which to Ray was confounding, because the size of the shrimp they were catching—90 per pound—wasn’t good for anything, and not worth the disruption in the life cycle.

Ray explains that it’s the bartender lady’s birthday, and that since he’d only discovered this fact a few minutes ago, the best he could scrounge up was a few cupcakes and a pack of birthday candles. While the bartender is distracted by the video poker machine in the corner of the room, Ray decorates the cake, lights the candles and then calls her over while everyone sings, “Happy Birthday.”

She’s a sport, she blows out the candles, but by the time the song ends, there are tears rolling down her cheeks—not tears of joy, but tears from a place a few leagues south of joy. She takes her drink and her cigarette and goes back to the video poker, and a man named Black wearing a black Barmah hat takes over serving drinks.

Ray is a fisherman in his thirties with an Italian-sounding last name tattooed along his forearm, but when we ask him about it he says his name is Fillipino, not Italian. He’s drinking Jim Beam and his mood is up. A man next to me whispers that if Ray wasn’t drinking whiskey he wouldn’t be so friendly, he’d be sulking somewhere, and that makes me like Ray more. Ray tells us about his dog, Rufus James, who he wants us to meet, and also about his mother, the greatest woman in the world.





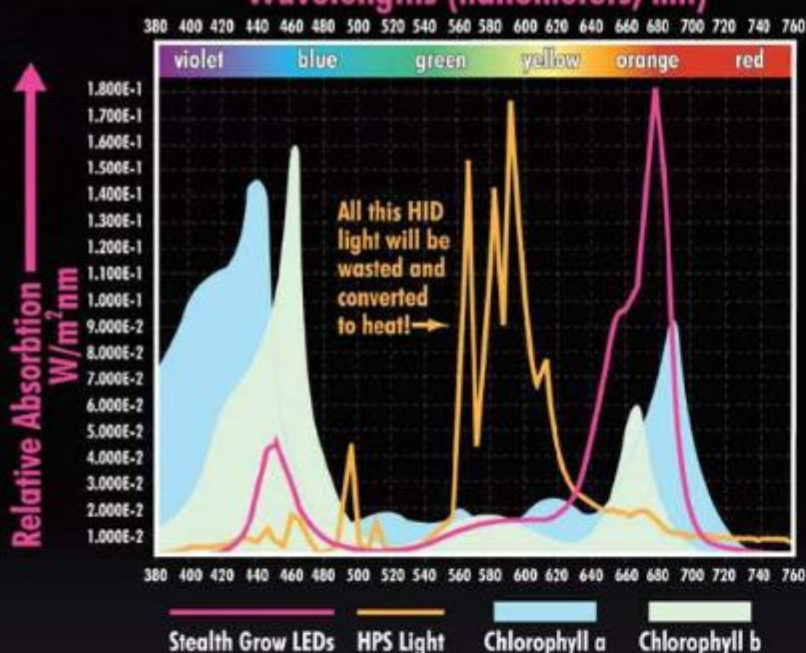
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Rebekah is a jeweler and gives him a ring with a cat's eye stone to give to his mother, and his face brightens and he insists right there that we go and meet her, which is an easy thing to do because the two of them, along with Rufus James, live in a trailer next to the levee, a few hundred feet behind the bar. We ask him if he wants to smoke some weed and he says sure, but he doesn't want his mom to find out, as she would not approve.

"My mother is the greatest woman in the world," he tells us. "She carries a .38, but you'll love her and she is going to love this ring."

Walking back to his home, Ray tells us that everything we see was under water after Katrina, and that he and his mother lived with relatives upstate for months after the flood.

Rufus James is an amiable pit bull with pink eyes and a slobbering pink mouth tied to a tree next to the trailer. Ray starts wrestling the mutt, slapping him around and saying, "Ain't you beautiful, Rufus James?"

Maybe 200 feet away is a concrete wall that is the last line of defense between the sea and Ray's life.

"The Mississippi is on the other side?" I ask, and Ray takes me up there to see. The two of us climb the diagonal layer of rocks to the top of the wall and peer out at the ships in the delta where the river meets the Gulf. The water is a busy byway of oil tankers and all sorts of transport ships. Pointing to the marsh below he shows me where he catches snapping turtles.

"Do you eat them?" I ask.

"Of course. I don't clean them though, my mother does that. We live off the land." Then he adds stoically, "This is the only thing I know, and it's all going to end."

"Do you see alligators here?" I ask him and he looks at me like I'm an idiot.

"Of course."

"I've never seen an alligator outside of a zoo."

"I'll show you an alligator," he says. "I'll show you *my* alligator. I feed him."

Back at the house Rebekah and Ashley are sitting with Ray's mom, who indeed does love her ring and who is as great as Ray said. She points to her okra bushes and explains that the secret to cooking good okra is to add a bit of vinegar during the preparation, and that keeps them from getting slimy.

## Does BP have a time machine that we don't know about? Because the Gulf of Mexico isn't going to be "right" again until long after you and I cease to exist.

Back in the Ford Explorer, we pass around the peace pipe while Ray leads us through the marshy byways of Venice in search of his gator.

We pull over and he shows us the gator path, tall grass that has been trampled into the sand. I follow him down the path while the ladies wait back at the car. Putting his hands to the sides of his mouth he lets out a series of gator calls—

"Gu-gu-wah! Gu-gu-wah!"

When nothing happens, he points to a nearby sandbar and says, "That's a nest, come with me, we'll flush them out."

It's mating season, a time when the males are particularly aggressive, and I basically chicken out and head back to the car.

We drive only about a quarter of a mile when Rebekah spots one in a pond. Excited, we all get out. The gator doesn't swim so much as it just moves straight through the water stealthily, the king of his domain. I'd always imagined that seeing a gator on its home turf would be a heart-pumping, frightening thing like seeing a bear in your campground, but gators, they just want to do their own thing like the rest of us. The fact that they are perfect killing machines that have survived mostly intact since dinosaur days, you can't hold that against them.

"This is my life and now it's over," Ray laments. "I might as well just set this whole fucking place on fire."

What do you say to a man when he speaks the miserable truth? Do you tell him it's all going to be all right? Because it won't. Do you tell him that there's something he can do? Because there isn't. Do you tell him not to worry because the arrogant prick mouthpiece of BP promises that he's going to "make this right?"

Does BP have a time machine that we don't know about? Because the Gulf of Mexico isn't going to be "right" again until long after you and I cease to exist.

In the next few months Ray was going to watch the life that he knows—a culture older than the internal combustion machine, older than America itself—be defiled before his and his mother's and Rufus James' eyes, and the debate as to which tastes better, white shrimp or brown shrimp, will be rendered irrelevant because all the shrimp that live in this body of water will be dead. ✱





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