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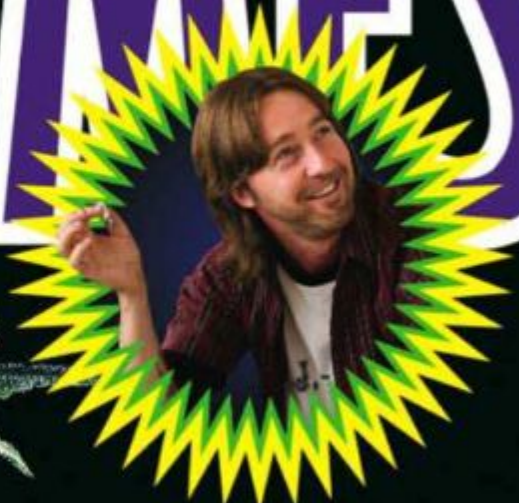
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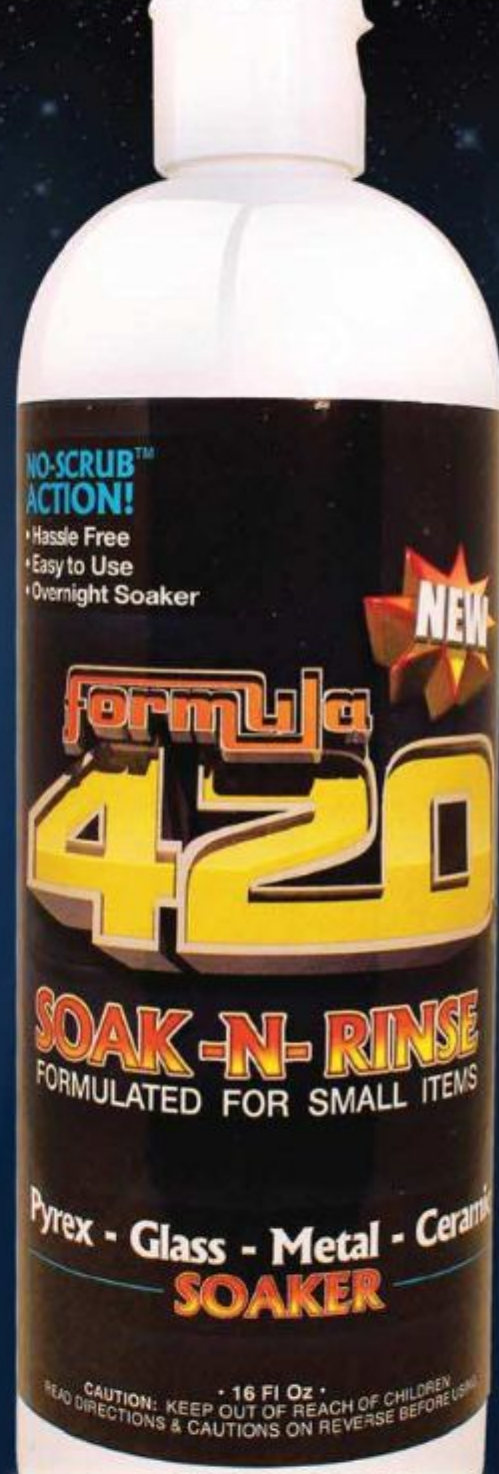
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MURPHY GREEN

WEST COAST TRANSPLANT

With marijuana legalization literally on the ballot in California this November (see page 40), what better moment in HIGH TIMES' 35-year history to establish our first dedicated, full-time West Coast office?

As a senior editor at the magazine, I've had the rare privilege of touring Northern California at harvest time on several unforgettable occasions, meeting the people and the plants that make the Bay Area and the Emerald Triangle legendary among America's millions of marijuana smokers. While "in country," I spent time and shared spliffs with growers, trimmers, patients, activists, bud-tenders and dispensary owners, all the while marveling at the freedoms that Californians have established and maintained, often at great personal peril.

Now, I'm proud to call this legendary pot paradise my new home.

After nearly a decade in the "Baked Apple," it was hard to leave behind the bright lights of New York City and all my friends at the magazine—but what fertile new soil for a marijuana journalist to put down roots in! As HT's first official "West Coast editor," I've already helped launch a new magazine called HIGH TIMES MEDICAL MARIJUANA (hightimes.com/medmj.com), and this June 19 and 20, I'll be helping to host the first annual HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup (medcancup.com) in San Francisco (see page 14).

While you await this unbelievable event, please enjoy our annual California/Canada issue, which includes an in-depth look at the future of cannabis cultivation in California, the top pot strains in Canada, strategies for achieving maximum yield in any garden, and an interview with Edward Norton, star of *Fight Club*, and a new movie, *Leaves of Grass*, in which he plays twin brothers, one an Ivy League professor, the other a down-home hydroponic ganja grower.

And now that I've made it to California, rest assured that I'll keep reporting on the push for legalization here in 2010. In the meantime, if you've got any idea how to get decent bagels or authentic New York-style pizza on the West Coast, please let me know at bean@hightimes.com.

Highest regards,

David Bienenstock

David Bienenstock
West Coast Editor

HIGH TIMES

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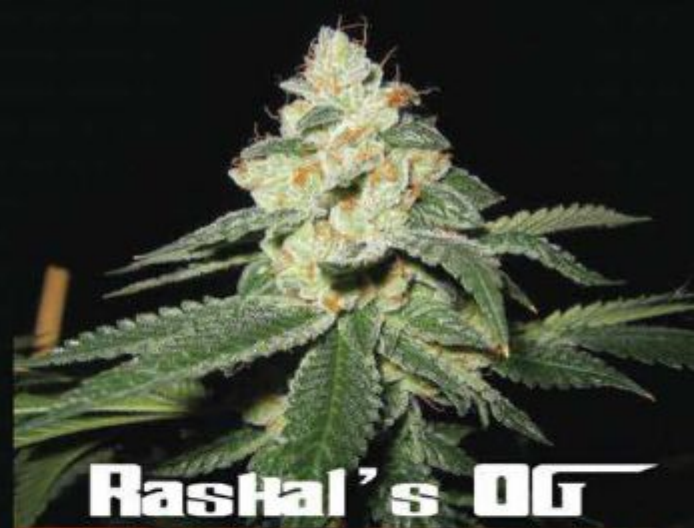
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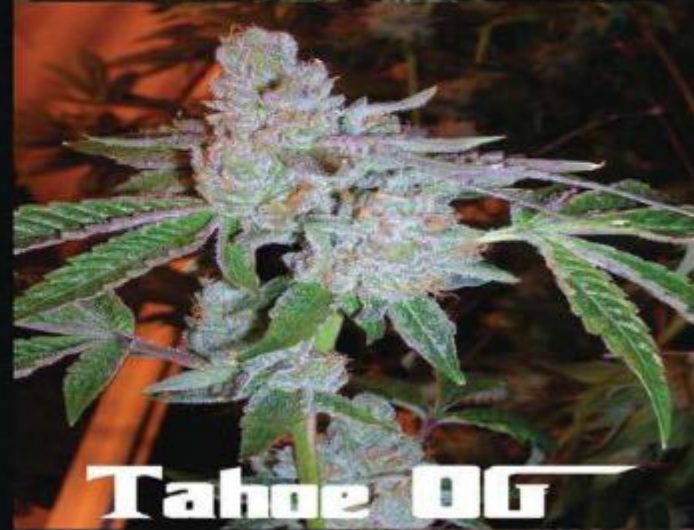
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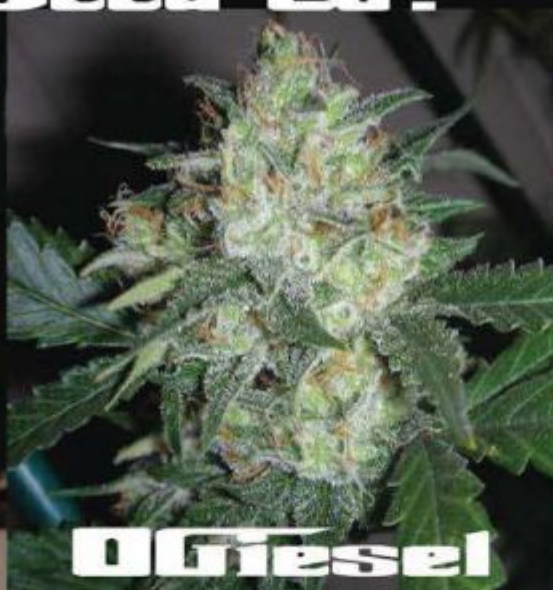
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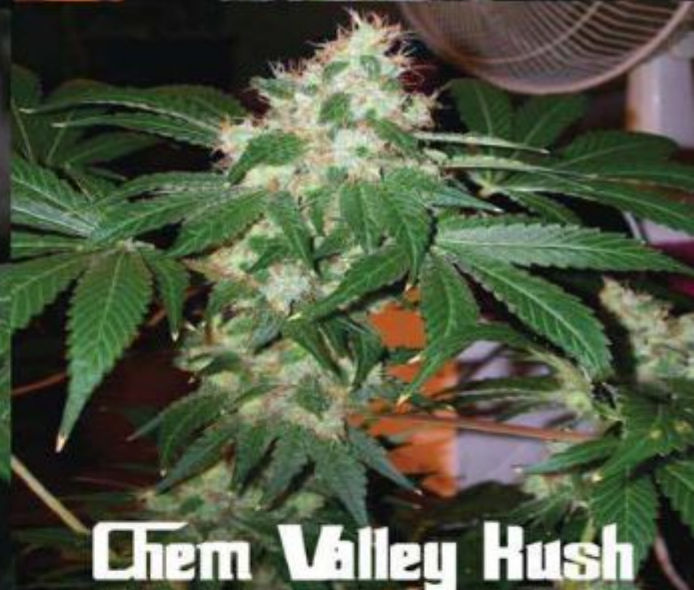
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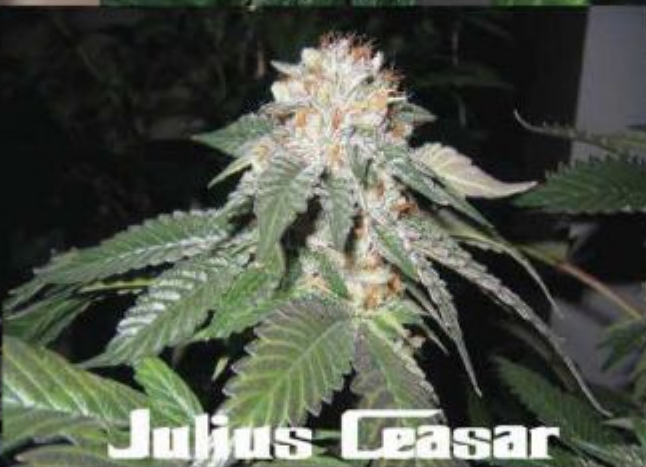
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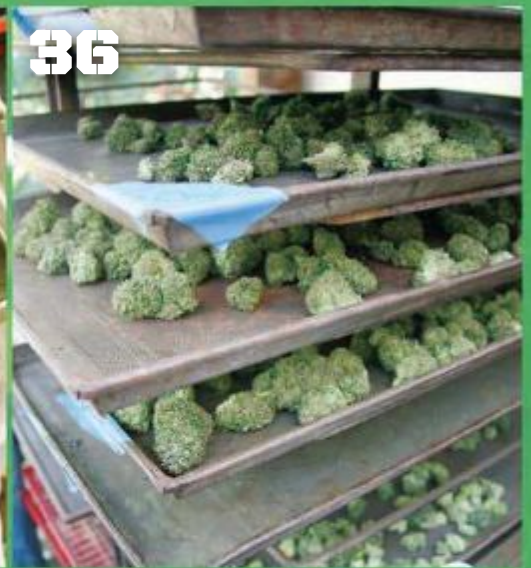
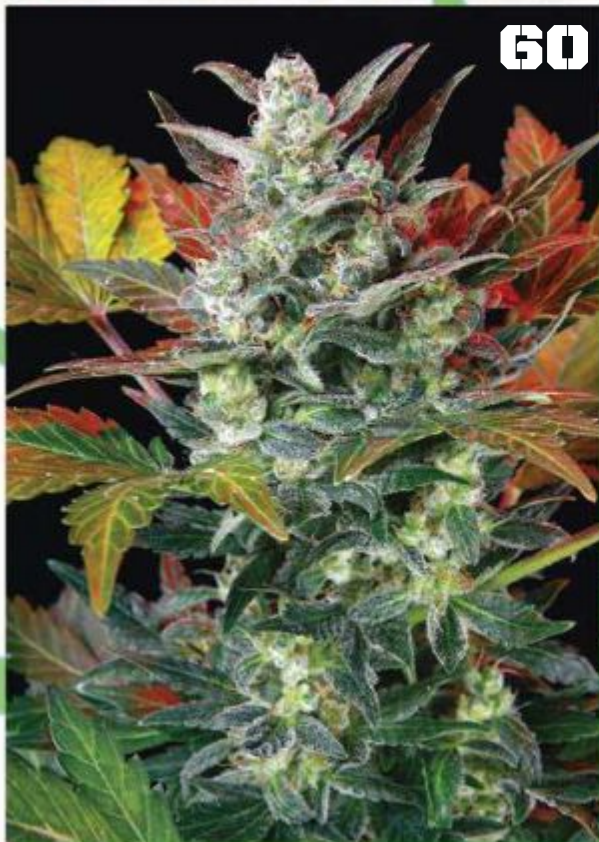


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FEATURES

36 CALIFORNIA'S CANNABIS KINGDOM

by Dan Skye

Although medical marijuana has been legal in California for 14 years, patients must still fight for their right to use the medicine. Now, even in the venerable pot-growing region of Trinity County, cultivators are organizing to repel the opposition.

46 MAXIMIZING MEDICINE

by Nico Escondido

When it comes to medical marijuana, many states place strict limits on how much patients and caregivers can grow at home. Here's your ticket around the idiocracy: Nico drops knowledge on how to maximize your yields indoors, even when growing with less plants, fewer lights and a smaller space.

60 TOP 10 CANADIAN STRAINS OF ALL TIME

Check out our first-ever breakdown of the finest and most famous pot varieties hailing from Canada in an exclusive excerpt from our forthcoming book, *The HIGH TIMES Field Guide to Cannabis Strains*, by senior cultivation editor Danny Danko.

72 MANITOBA'S HEMP MIRACLE

by Samantha Nicholas

A mere 100 miles from the US border, the Canadian health-food company Manitoba Harvest is making millions of dollars each year from their hemp products. The sad thing is: In our country, they'd be engaged in a criminal enterprise.

78 HIGH TIMES LEGALIZATION GUIDE

Is 2010 the year that marijuana legalization starts to happen in the United States? The answer could actually be *yes*—but only if highly concerned citizens like you get involved. So check out our official guide to freeing the weed and join the green team!

82 HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW: EDWARD NORTON

By David Bienenstock

The Academy Award nominated star of *Fight Club* explains the unique challenges—and philosophical joys—of playing a hydroponic ganja grower on the big screen.

DEPARTMENTS

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12 HIGHWITNESS NEWS/BUZZ

EDITED BY DAN SKYE

Justin Kirk from *Weeds*; Stayin' cool with Just-Ice; Stump message; Unique ceramic pipes; High on her horse; Cocaine at NASA; HIGH TIMES Medical Marijuana Cup; Showbuzz; Brain-dead journalism; Musical highs; Cashless society; Major Lazer; Tarrus Riley; Farmer Dave's Emerald Triangle Tour; Reviews; Band of the Month; Miss HIGH TIMES; Almost Infamous; Brain Damage Control.

93 GROWORLD

EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO

Pix of the Crop; Cannabis Clinic; Munchies; NORMLizer; Freedom Fighter; Ask Dr. Mitch; SSDP; Mel Frank's Guide to Cannabis Nomenclature; Gear/Hot Products; Dear Danko.

126 NEXT MONTH

132 POT 40

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FEEDBACK

REGENERATION

I'm new to growing, and you guys and your magazine, along with Jorge, have got me this far with no problems. The reason I'm writing to you, though, is that I saw your January 2010 issue with the Alanis Morissette interview, and she said she had plants grown through the ashes of Woody Harrelson's father. And I was wondering: Could you do a step-by-step article on how to do this? The reason being, I just recently (in late August) lost my best friend to a battle with cancer, and he was cremated too. We both were constant weed smokers, and I'm sure there is nothing my boy would like more than to live on through the plant we all love so much. By the way, your article on Rick Simpson, though it crossed my eyes a little too late, changed my life—I've been preaching the story to everyone. No one should have to suffer as my best friend and so many others have—and now, maybe they won't. Thanks, HIGH TIMES!

Gutta Cole

OAKSTERDAM U!

I've been reading your magazine for a few years now, and I would just like to say: Keep up the good work! I enjoy reading it very much; it's the perfect mix of everything you need to know, from how to grow to what's going on in the world of weed. I believe it was in one of your 2008 issues that I first read about Oaksterdam University. I was astonished at the fact that there was such a place; it seemed too good to be true. Some time passed and I didn't hear more about it, and then one day at work, it hit me. Now, I work at a potato-packaging facility, so needless to say, it's not very exciting or fun. I was doing my thing one day (stacking potatoes, that is), and I thought how depressingly mundane my job is and how I really don't want to spend the rest of my life doing something that I don't enjoy ... and then BAM!—Oaksterdam University was suddenly back in my mind again. I did some research and found that it's extremely cheap, since it's not an "accredited" college. What I didn't find is very much information on the classes or what it's like to attend such a fantastic place of learning. To get to the point, I made the decision to enroll for the summer 2010 semester, giving me time to save some money (since I live in Wisconsin and I'll need to find an apartment in California). I know it's a little ahead of time, but I'm really amped about going and I want to spread the word!

Nick

Please check out our new magazine **HIGH TIMES MEDICAL MARIJUANA NEWS AND REVIEWS** to learn more about Oaksterdam U.

HT IN THE UK

Would you consider starting a British version or branch of HIGH TIMES? We may be a relatively



small country, but I assure you, there are a lot of pot smokers here, and I believe if you sold your magazine publicly, you would get a lot of subscribers, including myself.

Jake

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU

Please let Team Death Star know that we too are "inner circle" material! Also, thanks for your article on the Death Star strain in the February 2010 issue. I must say that we

found it enjoyable as we harvested our MK-Ultra last night, just in time for Christmas. Your article made us ponder as we stripped the fan leaves, since we're looking for a suitable mate for our MK-Ultra plant, and Death Star just might help us get one step closer to "Darth Indica." Plus we're always looking for top-notch genetics. It is the way of the Force.

Han Grow-lo and Ganji-wan Kenobi

SEEDS AFTER 2012?

I was wondering if you knew whether or not any seed-bank companies have sent cannabis seeds to the 2012 seed vault? I couldn't imagine surviving what I've seen on TV or the Web without my favorite crop. I sent an email to a few companies asking if they have, but I haven't received any response.

I'm no 2012 freak or anything, but I do like the idea of taking precautions, "just in case."

Chris

HT TO THE RESCUE!

I was preparing for my live art show, but I didn't know what I was going to draw. I had a couple of nature pics that I've enjoyed working off of lately, but nothing really spoke to me. Then, in the mail, came the February issue of HIGH TIMES. I flipped through it, my eyes devouring the buds that I wished I was smoking, and that's when inspiration hit me like the stink of good bud. It was in the article on Joel Tornabene titled "Tom Waits Meets Super-Joel" by Paul Krassner. When I saw the photo of Super-Joel putting the daisy in that gun barrel, I knew I had to draw it. I immediately ripped the page out of the magazine, folded it up in my pocket, and set out to my art show. I drew the picture, with great success: Everyone who came up to me had something positive to say about it and really loved the subject matter. Of course, I told everyone the story of where the picture came from. Once again, HIGH TIMES saves the day. Thanks, HT!

Josh

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

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Justin Kirk takes with Mary Louise Parker in *Weeds*.



KIRK BEAMS UP

We recently caught up with actor Justin Kirk (a.k.a. Andy on *Weeds*), who's gearing up for the sixth season of the hit series. Although he's already won the coveted HIGH TIMES Stony Award for his work on the show, it seems he still hasn't quite mastered the art of the interview.

How do you account for the longevity of *Weeds*?
The show's pretty good!

Has the novelty of doing a show obsessed with pot worn off for the cast?
No way!

Can you tell me any funny on-set stories that deal with pot?
Yeah, I *totally* could.

Living in LA, what's your take on the current state of medical pot?
California leads the way!

Do you have any fear that you might be too closely identified with *Weeds* after the show's over?
What do you mean? What have you heard?

What's on the horizon beyond *Weeds*?
You wouldn't believe me if I told you.

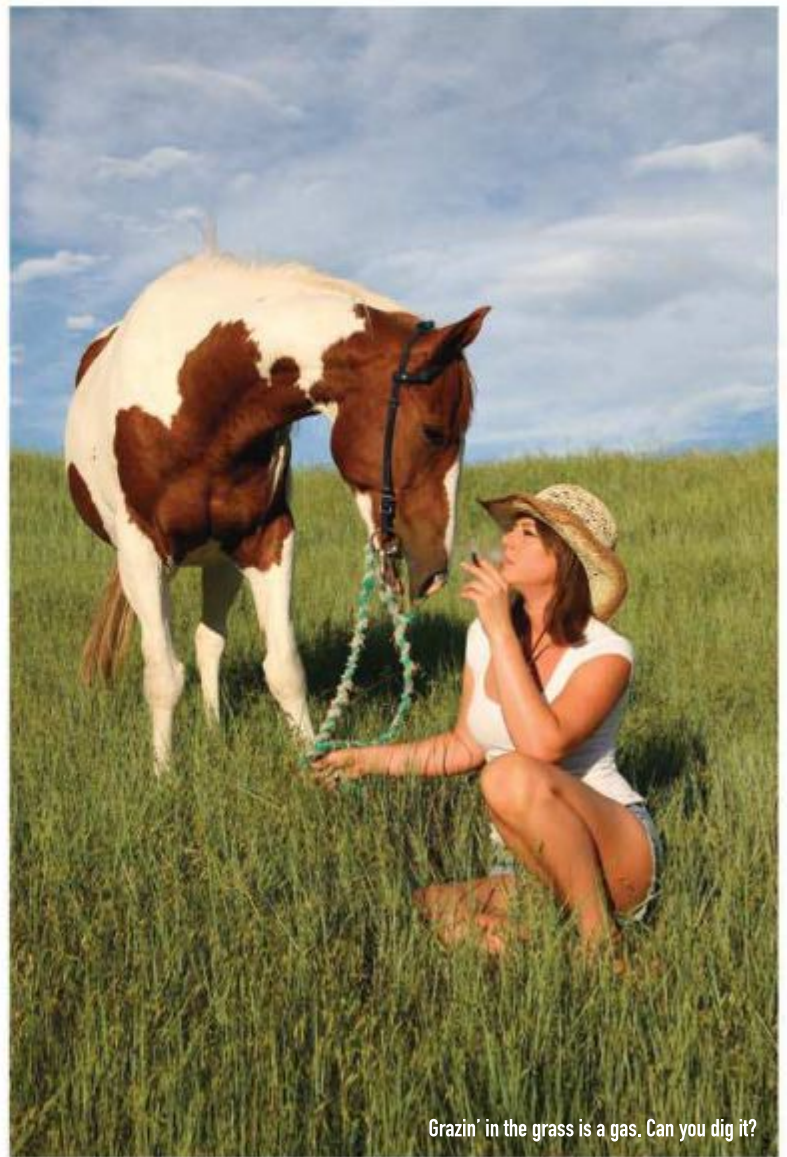
In our recent interview with Alanis Morissette, she praised you for your help in the sex scenes. Okay, now let's hear it from you: How do you get through those scenes?
This might be my favorite question ever!

Was winning a HIGH TIMES Stony Award a life-changing event?
I won't lie—yes, it was!

Where do you keep your award?
It was pristine for a long time out of respect.

Ever used it?
What?

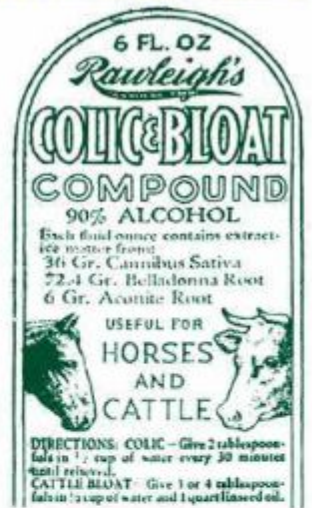
Season five of Weeds is now available on DVD. Season six begins in June. Visit sho.com/site/weeds.



Grazin' in the grass is a gas. Can you dig it?

HIGH ON HER HORSE

After one of the most severe winters on record, it's nice to see the green hues of summer return. It's time to kick back and bask in the summer breeze. Recently, on a particularly balmy day, a young horsewoman decided to take a breather following a ride across the prairie. Once she lit up, her horse got in on the action and took the meaning of "grazing in the grass" to a whole new level. As it turns out, horses have a history of using medical marijuana. Check out this vintage bottle of Rawleigh's Colic and Bloat Compound for cattle and horses: One of its primary ingredients is 36 grams of *Cannabis sativa* Giddyup!



LA 4/20

The week of April 20th has become a nationwide festival of events. Across the country, our stoner holiday is being used as a platform for celebrations, parades, and rallies. In the spirit of honoring our special day, even the THC Expose is moving its event. Last June, the first-ever cannabis lifestyles trade show in North America debuted in June as the THC Expo. But this year, the 3-day event has been moved to April 23-25 and been renamed the THC Expose. It's all happening at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Make the THC Expose part of your 4/20. You may win a trip for two to the Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam!

Admission: \$10. Open to the public 18 and older. Visit thcexpose.com.

Cannabis crowds at the THC Expose.



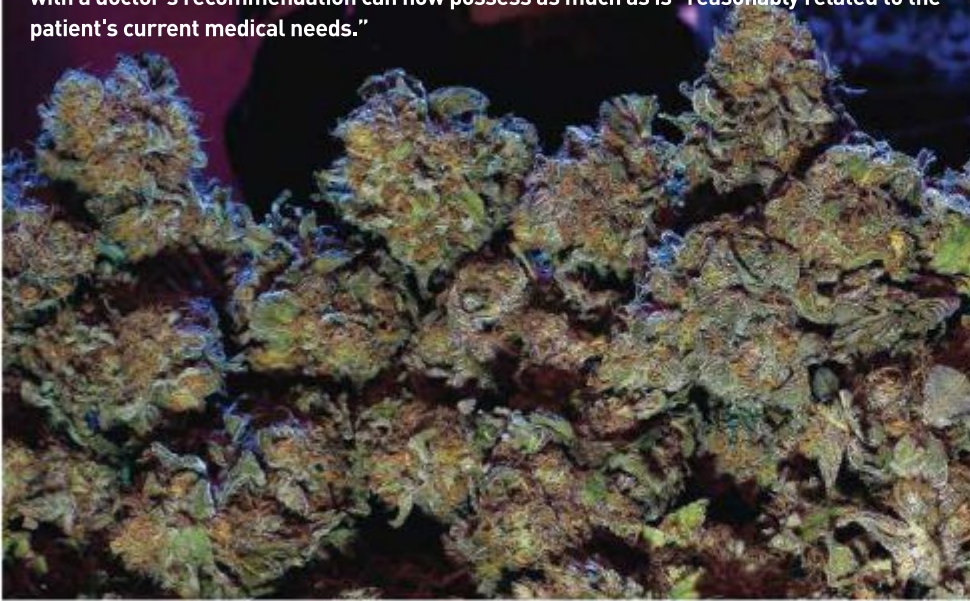
JOY IN JERSEY!

Now, New Jersey really is the "Garden State." In January, outgoing governor Jon Corzine signed a state medical marijuana bill, making New

Jersey the 14th state to legalize the use of medical marijuana. (While medical use is not legal in Maryland, the state does allow those arrested to use a medical defense in court.) However, patients who are authorized to use marijuana under this act will not be permitted to grow their own medicine. Additionally, patients will only be able to possess two ounces of medicine per month. The law allows for the creation of up to six state-licensed "alternative treatment centers."

MORE FREEDOM FOR POT

The California Supreme Court has struck down the state's limits on how much medicine a patient can legally possess. The court unanimously ruled that the limits imposed upon medical pot patient Patrick Kelly of Lakewood—8 ounces of dried marijuana, six mature plants or 12 immature plants—conflicted with Proposition 215, the 1996 voter-approved initiative that made California the first state to legalize medical marijuana. Patients and caregivers with a doctor's recommendation can now possess as much as is "reasonably related to the patient's current medical needs."



JUST-ICE SMOKES UP THE JOINT

In 1986, Joseph Williams Jr.—better known to hip-hop fans as Just-Ice—emerged onto the rap scene with his debut record, *Back to the Old School*, quickly following it up the next year with *Kool & Deadly* and his hit single "Going Way Back," which even then paid tribute to the pioneers of hip-hop. Many consider Just-Ice, with his intimidating presence and gold teeth, to be the first "gangsta rapper," despite his appearance on the single "Self-Destruction" from KRS-One's Stop the Violence Movement project in 1989. Twenty years later, Just-Ice dropped in to smoke a few blunts and reminisce about the old days.

"I was in and out of trouble since age 12," he recalled. "I got locked up and ended up living in the homeless shelter in the Bronx where I met KRS-One. Our social worker was Scott Sterling (a.k.a. DJ Scott La Rock), and he encouraged us to rhyme our way out of poverty. I found work as a bouncer at punk clubs, so I was well exposed to the downtown scene as well. We smoked weed every day back then... Acapulco Gold! Marijuana was the lubricant between all of these urban cultures that wouldn't normally have met and mingled, so thank you to HIGH TIMES for keeping it in the foreground." —Danny Danko
Check out Just-Ice's latest release, *32 Degrees*, on iTunes, Rhapsody, Amazon and eMusic. Also, watch out for *Here It Is*, a new CD featuring Just-Ice and KRS-One.



CERAMICALLY YOURS

An age-old tradition of Japanese ceramics flows through the blood of the young entrepreneurs at Chojiro Ceramic Pipes. Rather than crafting elaborate bowls and cups for tea ceremonies, they're crafting bowls and bongos from clay and finishing them in the *raku* process (hand-molding as opposed to molding on a potter's wheel), which means that each of their pieces is unique. Thousands of stoners admired Chojiro's smokeware at their booth at the recent HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup. These organic, earthen pipes feature rustic craftsmanship and are ideal for hash smoking.

About €40 each. Email chojiro13@excite.co.jp.



BLAST OFF!

Security seems to be breaking down everywhere these days. First came the White House party crashers, and then the underwear bomber who eluded multiple levels of security in his bid to blow up a jet on Christmas Day. Now NASA has discovered its own security breach.

How did a bag of cocaine get into the hangar housing the space shuttle *Discovery* at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida? A NASA spokesman said that the amount of coke found was minimal, but it was discovered in a secure part of the hangar to which approximately 200 NASA employees and contractors have access. The solution? Call in the drug-sniffing dogs, interview everybody, and crucify the poor bastard who gets busted.

The March 18 launch of *Discovery* wasn't postponed, and all of the shuttle's hardware seemed intact. Just expect the final countdown to be a little faster.

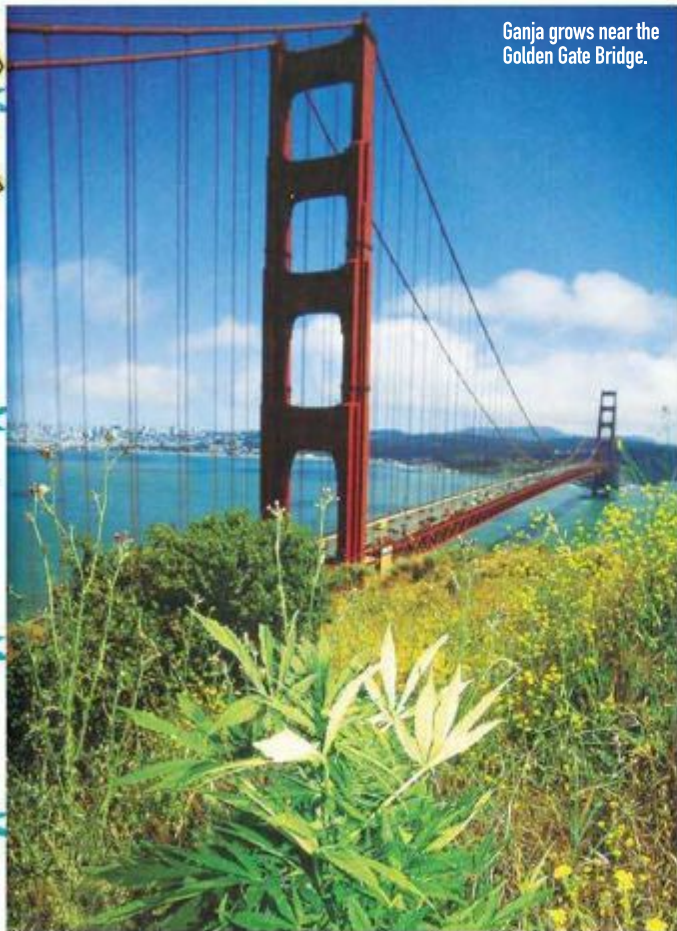


STUMPED!

Trees are definitely one of nature's miracles: They shed all their leaves in the autumn and miraculously grow new ones each spring. They shade us in the summertime and make cool sounds when the wind blows through their branches. Everyone knows that the rings on a stump tell us the true age of a tree, but when a woodsman took his power saw to this tree trunk recently, a special message from Mother Nature was revealed—the equivalent of seeing the face of Jesus on your screen door!

AMERICA'S CUP

The first HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup debuts June 19 and 20 in San Francisco.



Ganja grows near the Golden Gate Bridge.

California will very likely decide whether to legalize cannabis for adult use—once and for all—with a ballot initiative this November (see page 40). Meanwhile, the Obama administration's "states' rights" approach to medical marijuana has largely settled that once-contentious issue in favor of compassion, common sense and reasonable regulation—at least in states with medical-cannabis laws. So now it's high time that we finally address two of the most urgent questions currently asked by both "garden-variety" medical-marijuana patients and the high-minded activists working to ensure safe access: Who's got the best medicine, and how do I get some?

As part of a coordinated effort to answer those questions and offer our readers the most comprehensive coverage of the West Coast scene, we're launching the first annual HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup, to be held June 19 and 20 in San Francisco. This cannabis/hemp expo will feature cultivation seminars by HT editors Danny Danko and Nico Escondido, activism sessions with leaders of the medical-marijuana movement, appearances by major cannabis celebrities, and an all-star awards ceremony, plus an unforgettable pot party with surprise musical guests.

Modeled after our very own HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam, this new competition will return the idea of an ultimate cannabis celebration to its original roots in the world's

This new competition will return the idea of a cannabis celebration to its original roots.

top marijuana-growing region. Amsterdam remains the international capital of cannabis freedom and the dream destination of most American stoners—but when it comes to cannabis quality and community, there's just nowhere like Northern California.

After all, when the federal government first started cracking down on weed smuggled into the US from Mexico, Colombia and all points south in the late '60s, it was those "back to the land" hippies of NorCal who planted the first crops of homegrown, all-American grass. In time, they would develop the sinsemilla method of propagating all-female, seedless crops and go on to blend the best cannabis genetics from around the world to develop incredibly potent hybrid strains capable of flourishing in the local climate. When the federal government started targeting California growers in its endless War on Weed, many of these same strains—including Northern Lights, Haze and Skunk—found their way to Amsterdam, which was just emerging as a safe haven for both marijuana genetics and exiled breeders.

In 1988, HIGH TIMES editor Steven Hager founded the Cannabis Cup, traveling to Holland to oversee a blind tasting of four cannabis varieties by three expert judges. Skunk #1 won that first Cannabis Cup, starting a proud lineage of champions that has helped define America's pot potpourri ever since. At the 22nd Annual Cannabis Cup last November, over 2,000 judges attended, choosing the best cannabis and hashish entered by dozens of Amsterdam coffeeshops.

At the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup, we'll bestow our top prize on the best strain entered by California's legally operating medical-marijuana dispensaries and growing collectives. Our aim is to honor the medical-cannabis providers who offer the highest-quality medicine to state-sanctioned patients, as well as to help those same patients find the most effective medicinal cannabis possible in every corner of the state. ✨

Visit medcancup.com for the latest information on the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup, including how to attend, how to compete (Prop. 215-compliant providers only), and how to help judge (valid medical-marijuana ID cardholders only).

THIS MONTH IN SHOWBUZZ



On the road again.

LAUGH LEGENDS SAY LEGALIZE!

Pot comics Cheech & Chong stopped by the set of the Internet news program *Washington Unplugged* to promote their new tour, "Get It Legal," which kicked off in January. Both comics left no stone unturned as they promoted both the tour and the issue of medical marijuana. They took the high road mostly, demonstrating a nuanced command of Drug War issues, but they couldn't resist goofing around a bit. Among the highlights was Cheech's suggestion for a national vote: "I think we should have a referendum—beer or weed." When host Bill Plante asked about the possible harm to kids, Chong pointed out: "Kids have more to fear from priests than marijuana, statistically."

Visit cheechandchongtour.com.

ALL OVER FOR ALLMAN

Gregg Allman, the venerable leader of the Allman Brothers Band who's finishing up a new solo album, told *CaliforniaChronicle.com* that marijuana is no longer a part of his life. While on tour in Pennsylvania, the Southern Man revealed: "I stopped smoking pot this summer, and you never know what that stuff does to your throat. Don't get me wrong—cannabis does have its place in society, especially for people in pain. But for singers, it just doesn't work. Makes me wish I had done it 40 years ago."



Gregg just says no.

Step into the 21st century, Gregg, and try a vaporizer.

Namath nabbed.



STAR-KID TOKERS

In January, Olivia Namath, 19, the daughter of NFL legend Joe Namath, was stopped going 58 miles per hour in a 50-mph zone in Palm Beach, FL. The cop smelled pot and found her stash on the floor of the car. When he searched further, he found a half-pound in the trunk. Olivia got busted for intent to sell, even though she said she had no idea how the pot got there In other news, former model and top jewelry designer Jade Jagger, the daughter of Mick and Bianca, told *Tatler* magazine: "I'm a pro-choice pot smoker and wouldn't dream of not telling that to my children. In fact, I wouldn't care if the whole world knew."



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hitting the high notes

Don't want your kids smoking weed? Then you might want to consider hiding their iPods. So alleges a new study published in the journal *Addiction*. Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine surveyed the musical preferences of 959 ninth-graders. Investigators reported that their subjects listened to an average of 21.8 hours of music per week and were exposed to some 40 marijuana references in the music per day.

"Students who listen to music with the most references to marijuana are almost twice as likely to have used the drug than their peers whose musical tastes favor songs less focused on substance use," said the lead researcher, Dr. Brian Primack, speaking to MSNBC.

But while most mainstream-media outlets proposed a "cause-and-effect" relationship between teens' exposure to pot-friendly lyrics and adolescent marijuana use, the U-Pitt researchers interpreted their findings more cautiously. "Although it may be that heavy exposure to music about marijuana causes marijuana smoking, it may also be that those who smoke marijuana seek out music with lyrics related to marijuana," Dr. Primack said.

Or the results may have nothing to do with lyrical content at all. According to a previous study of over 1,200 high-school students by Dr. Primack and his colleagues last September, simply listening to music—any type of music—"was independently associated with marijuana use." Furthermore, a recent Dutch study of over 7,300 teens age 12 to 16 found that fans of hip-hop and house music were more likely to smoke pot than their peers who enjoyed classical music, jazz or contemporary pop. Finally, a separate 2008 study published in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Review* concluded that teens who frequently attended live concerts (read: music festivals) were at greater risk for using pot and other drugs than non-concertgoers. Of course, none of these findings should come as any surprise to HIGH TIMES readers, who have long been aware that virtually any music goes better with cannabis.—Paul Armentano

THC VS. TUMORS

Every year about 90,000 people develop glioblastomas, which are the most common and most aggressive type of primary brain tumor in humans. They are difficult to treat because they spread throughout the brain. However, a recent study suggests that cannabis may be of benefit in combating the spread of brain cancer cells. Researchers at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco tried a combination of THC and cannabidiol (a compound found in cannabis) on brain cancer cells and found that the combination treatment seemed to work better at killing the cells and inhibiting their return. Sean McAllister, the author of the study, says, "Treatments need to do something to disrupt the pathways that cancer cells use to communicate." However, McAllister cautions that currently there is no evidence that marijuana actually is beneficial in fighting tumors. Tests on lab animals, then humans will be necessary to ascertain pot's effectiveness.

McAllister also says that smoking pot wouldn't offer effective concentrations. Instead, treatments would have to be administered directly through the brain. The treatment would be expensive, but McAllister says the compound wouldn't be.



BRAIN-DEAD JOURNALISM



"The effects of daily cannabis use on teenage brains is worse than originally thought, and the long-term effects appear to be irreversible, new research from McGill University suggests." So screamed an article by the Canadian Press news agency about a study, released in December, purporting to show the brain-damaging effects of pot use by young people.

There are only two problems with the alarmist coverage. First, no teenagers—or, for that matter, humans—actually participated in the study. And second, no actual cannabis was consumed.

According to the study's abstract, published online by the journal *Neurobiology of Disease*, researchers administered daily doses of the highly potent synthetic cannabinoid-receptor agonist WIN,55,212-2 to adolescent and adult rats for 20 days. According to the investigators, "Chronic adolescent exposure but not adult exposure to low and high doses led to depression-like behavior ... while the high dose also induced anxiety-like consequences." The researchers speculated that these results might stem from WIN's impact on the production of serotonin, a neurotransmitter involved in the body's regulation of sleep, pain perception and mood.

So what insight do these findings provide for those wishing to understand the effects, if any, that cannabis has on the developing human brain? Not much at all.

Predictably, the study's lead researcher, Dr. Gabriella Gobbi, said that future investigations would focus on the impact of pot on "human marijuana smokers" rather than on nonsmoking rats. Of course, several other researchers have already conducted such clinical work—virtually none of which has lent validation to Dr. Gobbi's dire prognosis.

In fact, research published online this past summer in the scientific journal *Neurotoxicology and Teratology* indicated that in some circumstances, marijuana use might actually protect the adolescent brain. Investigators at the University of California at San Diego examined white-matter integrity in teens with a history of binge drinking and marijuana use. They reported that binge drinkers (defined as boys who consumed five or more drinks in one sitting, or girls who consumed four or more drinks at one time) showed signs of white-matter damage in eight separate regions of the brain. By contrast, the binge drinkers who also smoked cannabis experienced less damage in seven out of the eight brain regions. "[It is] possible that marijuana may have some neuroprotective properties in mitigating alcohol-related oxidative stress or excitotoxic cell death," the researchers concluded.

Our own conclusion: Pot smoking can be linked to permanent brain damage—but only in bad journalists.—PA

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THAT

CASHED OUT!

Living in a cashless society means that paper money will be worthless. So how do you buy pot? By Mark Miller

You're in the parking lot at a hippie jamband concert. You're really jonesing for fresh nuggets, and you seem to be in the perfect place: Several hundred fellow tokers are roaming the lot with pot in their pockets. But are they selling?

Well, yes and no. If you've got something to *barter*, then yes, you might be able to get some.

Cash was officially outlawed just last year, remember? The federal government decided it had to—partly, of course, to stem the black-market funding of “terrorism.” Cost-saving measures and more efficient tax collection were also cited as contributing factors to the entire global economy going cashless. All financial transactions are now conducted solely through the use of special bank-issued cards, as well as the more traditional credit and debit cards. This enables the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies to better monitor the wheelings and dealings of suspected terrorists and other criminals who previously used the black-market advantage of anonymous cash transactions to do their dirty work.

But wait a minute—you're not a terrorist. You just want to get high!

Out of the corner of your eye, you spot a quick sleight-of-hand exchange: A guy slips a half-ounce of pot to a hippie chick for a basket of her homemade ganja brownies. The barter system has quickly found its place in this post-currency world.

You dig in your pockets and rummage through your backpack. *Damn!* Nothing to trade. Your only recourse is to use your debit card at the nearby liquor store and bring back some quality microbrew. Maybe you can barter that for some quality smoke.

LIFE WITHOUT MONEY

Some refer to the cashless dynamic as “megabyte money,” a term first conjured by Joel Kurtzman in his book *The Death of Money*. Megabyte money is part of an intricate, globally interdependent and frighteningly fragile electronic system linking countless computers from the Federal Reserve to



that local liquor store that our stoner everyman is forced to buy beer at in order to barter for some pot. The coming cashless society will involve a digital system of currency wherein people exchange credits and debits by computerized transaction—conceptually the same as passing a \$20 bill from one customer’s wallet to the store and then back to another customer’s wallet, and so on.

In a cashless society, so-called “smart cards” will become the norm. Also known as integrated circuit cards (ICC), these are pocket-sized cards with an embedded microchip that is scanned in order to securely deduct the required total from your bank account.

The concept of a cashless society was first introduced into public consciousness by the author/philosopher Edward Bellamy in his influential 1888 utopian novel, *Looking Backward*. The modern credit card was first established in the 1920s for fuel purchases, then made a huge leap forward in the '50s with the advent of the Diner’s Club card and, later, American Express. Similarly, the modern automated-teller machine (ATM) came into existence in the 1970s and became a part of mainstream culture by the '90s. An entire generation had been raised on the notion of using ATMs and credit cards first, and traditional bank withdrawals second. (Ironically, the ATM generation won’t need ATMs in a truly cashless society—ATMs will be extinct, since there will be no bills for the machines to dispense.) The only exception to this general rule, needless to say, is when it comes to pot and other illegal transactions.

One benefit of a cashless society is that it would eliminate the costs of replacing an estimated \$200 million a year in currency (the average dollar bill wears out in 18 months). As for more efficient tax collection, whether that’s a positive or not really depends on which side of the tax dollar you’re on. In the cannabis world, it would certainly facilitate the more efficient collection of cannabis-related taxes from farmers, distributors, retail outlets, paraphernalia manufacturers, etc. But bear in mind: If pot remains illegal on the national level, the Feds can easily track electronic medical-marijuana purchases in any given state.

Which brings us to paranoia. The fear of the

coming cashless society has traditionally been the province of the far right, especially Christian fundamentalists: The notion of the omnipresent microchip in a cashless society plays into the belief that the “Great Beast” (Satan) will one day place his mark on every person’s head. Supposedly, this is prophesied in the Book of Revelations, which tells of the beginning of the end times, the Rapture, and the return of Jesus to Earth. While microchips aren’t mentioned in the Bible, the concept of an ICC “smart card”—even though it looks really convenient on the surface—could actually serve as

A cashless society plays into the belief that the “Great Beast” (Satan) will one day place his mark on every person’s head.

a precursor for widespread microchip implantation in the human body. Or so the argument goes.

Sound far-fetched? In 2008, there was actually a proposal in Indonesia to microchip all HIV patients to monitor their movements, with the ostensible purpose of stopping the spread of the disease. There are also concerns that embedded microchips might be used in the oft-proposed and much-maligned “national ID card,” which has led to ICCs being derisively referred to as “spy chips.”

These days, however, opposition to the cashless society has been growing on the political left as well, including concerns over the loss of jobs or income for those who depend on cash and tips to make their living. Privacy advocates argue that state bureaucrats could use a cashless, ICC-based system to electronically track the purchases of welfare recipients to determine if they’re spending government-assistance funds “properly.”

But how would the multibillion-dollar cannabis industry be impacted? Though many medical-marijuana dispensaries have installed ATMs on their premises for patients who forget to bring enough cash or decide to stock up on medicine, they still have difficulty either establishing or

maintaining credit-card service. According to Debby Goldsberry of the Berkeley Patients Group, banks either won’t grant dispensaries credit-card service or abruptly cancel such accounts once they’re established. “Wells Fargo won’t accept credit cards at all,” she says.

Debby adds: “We’re still in a gray area where people feel more comfortable with cash. It would be a problem for medical-marijuana caregivers who cultivate medicine—they don’t take credit cards. Medical cannabis needs a cash society in order to reimburse caregivers; cash allows protection for cultivators. Marijuana would have to be legalized in order to function in a cashless society.”

Still, an anonymous supervisor at a San Francisco dispensary says that ever since the Obama administration relaxed the federal government’s pressure on medical-marijuana states, she receives daily calls from companies seeking to place credit-card equipment in her dispensary.

All of these pot-related concerns swirling around the specter of a cashless society would essentially be rendered moot should the legalization, regulation and taxation of marijuana happen nationwide. After all, there are no major black-market concerns involving the sale of alcohol, so black-market pot activity—and the troubles and tragedy that often accompany it—should quickly fade away. If marijuana actually becomes legal in California in late 2010, as anticipated, the cashless purchase of legal, regulated pot would make marijuana an even more integral component of state commerce than it already is. Right now, it is the No. 1 cash crop in California; grapes are second.

If and when the cashless society comes, the buyers and sellers of hard drugs like crack cocaine and heroin would have to make significant changes in how they do business. Perhaps this would fuel a reduction in their use—or maybe it would increase the violence associated with hard-drug trafficking. Only time will tell.

When it comes to marijuana, however, we seek normalcy—the freedom to buy a legal carton of Kush joints at a neighborhood smoke shop. Who knows? Maybe it will even have an embedded chip in order to prevent theft or illegal possession. That’s not too much to ask. ✦

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

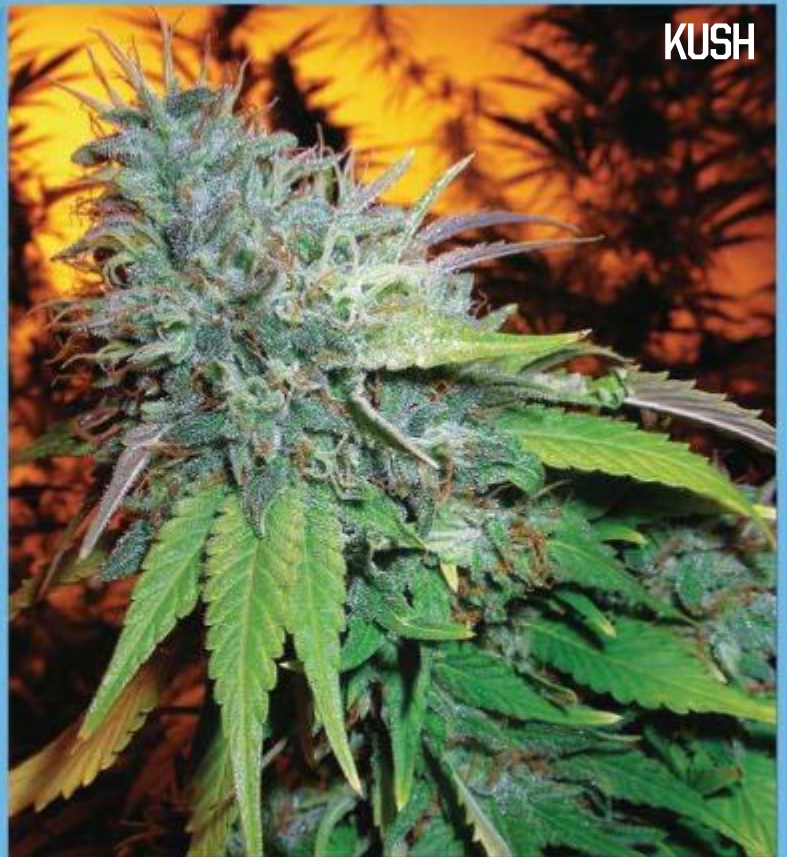
CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$334** (last month: \$374; YTD: \$357)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$417** (\$451, \$433)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$248** (\$271, \$274)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$76** (\$97, \$92)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ARIZONA	Phoenix	Purple Haze	\$380
		Strawberry Cough	\$350
ARKANSAS	Little Rock	KD Kush	\$350
CALIFORNIA	San Diego Lake Tahoe	Skunk #1	\$375
		Blue Dream	\$220
		Master Kush	\$220
		Sour Diesel	\$200
		Mendocino Purple	\$200
		Sensi Star	\$200
		Schwag	\$50
FLORIDA	Cape Coral	Rollercoaster	\$250
GEORGIA	Lawrenceville	Cali-O	\$280
		Blueberry	\$350
	Macon	Fruit Loop	\$400
		Burmese Kush Trainwreck	\$400
KANSAS	Kansas City	Green Crack	\$460
		Jack Frost	\$450
		Pineapple Kush	\$425
MARYLAND	Bowie	Granddaddy Purps	\$500
		Green Crack	\$550
		Sour Diesel	\$470
MASSACHUSETTS	Lawrence	Hydro	\$300
MICHIGAN	Petoskey	Kush	\$365
MINNESOTA	Minneapolis	Super Kush	\$400
		Juicy Fruit	\$380
		Planewreck	\$350
NEW JERSEY	New Brunswick Jersey City	Chem Dog's Sister	\$500
		Violet Wreck	\$420
		White Russian	\$400
NEW MEXICO	Albuquerque	Blue Cheese	\$300
		Trainwreck	\$300
		Northern Lights	\$300
NEW YORK	New York	Super Sour Diesel	\$550
		Chem Dog x Purple Kush	\$500
NORTH CAROLINA	Wilmington	Blue Dream	\$420
		Bubblegum	\$475
OHIO	Cleveland	Nebula	\$400
		Regs	\$100
OREGON	Portland	Lollipop	\$260
TEXAS	Corpus Christi	God Damn	\$425
UTAH	Salt Lake City	Granddaddy Kush	\$360
		Sensi Star	\$300
		Haze	\$360
VIRGINIA	Franklin County	Silver Pearl	\$350
INTERNATIONAL (prices listed in Canadian dollars or euros)			
CANADA	Edmonton	Kush	C\$200
	Mississauga St. Catharines	Hash	C\$150
		Sour Diesel	C\$300
GERMANY	Frankfurt	G-Spot Diesel	C\$250
		White Widow	€295



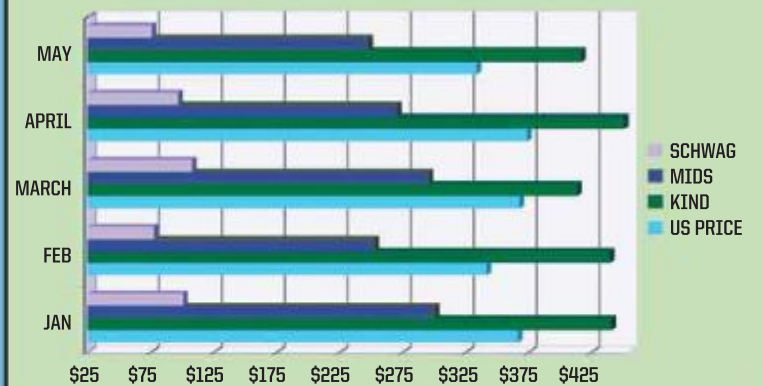
MARKET ANALYSIS

While the top submitted strains of the month seem to be written in stone, Kush offered some surprise with a dramatic average-price drop (more on this month's plummeting prices in the Index Watch). Kush finished April with an average price of \$360—that's \$50 less than its previous month's average and a whopping \$82 down from its 2010 high (\$442 in January). The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$360), Trainwreck (\$334), Purps (\$360), Diesel (\$407) and Haze (\$370).

Index Watch: Stockbrokers would say to buy! All indices were down significantly from their previous month's average (US, -\$40; Kind, -\$34; Mids, -\$23; Schwag, -\$21) and their year-to-date: At \$334, the US Price Index reached its lowest monthly average in over four years (January '06, when it was at \$332).

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

2010 PRICE INDICES



Hash - C\$150

Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA

"Someone had come up with a good portion of hash—I'm guessing domestic by the lack of any significant markings and due to its packaging. Ran through several kilos in the past four months myself."

Blue Dream - \$420

Wilmington, NORTH CAROLINA

"Absolute fire—very potent! Grown indoors under two 650-watt HPS bulbs. Breaking up a small nug resulted in the entire bedroom and hallway reeking of bud."

G-Spot Diesel - C\$250

St. Catharines, Ontario, CANADA

"All sorts of crazy blues and purples from the G-Spot mom, as well as her insane aromas and flavors. Add to that the famous Sour Diesel dankness, and you've got some all-around killer bud."

Green Crack - \$550

Bowie, MARYLAND

"Green Crack made its debut in this area about a month ago, leaving everybody in a daze. Electric bright-green nuggets with a unique sour-apple odor. Very uplifting high that you'd expect from this predominantly *sativa* strain."



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**HELPING YOU GROW
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Veteran DJs Diplo and Switch give life to a sensi superhero. **By Justin Hampton**

Diplo and Switch spin at HARD's Hunted Mansion.

MAJOR LAZER, SPLIFF INCINERATOR

Theorize, if you must, on the effects of globalization on indigenous urban-music genres like dancehall or baile funk. Or speculate, if you prefer, on the exploits of a (fictitious) Jamaican mercenary and veteran of the covert Zombie War of 1984 and what the soundtrack to his adventures would be like. Because Major Lazer—the eclectic, Jamaican-obsessed collaboration between M.I.A. producer Wesley “Diplo” Pentz and UK Fidget House DJ/producer Dave “Switch” Taylor—can easily accommodate whatever wild visions you come up with either way. For proof of that, check out the beats on the major’s debut album, *Guns Don’t Kill People ... Lasers Do* (Mad Decent/Downtown). Dancehall fans have long appreciated the injection of new ideas into the genre—and, apparently, the inspiration runs both ways.

“It was the first time I went to Jamaica when I decided to really kind of make moves away from

doing just straight-up house music,” says Switch of his introduction to the form. “The first time I went out there to work with [dancehall singer] Ms. Thing. And the whole kind of musical culture out there just really opened up my mind and my musical tastes.”

In keeping with lead-in single “Hold the Line,” a rollicking number that pairs toaster Mr. Lexx with Santogold atop a Dick Dale surf-guitar sample, the duo manages to cover all of Jamaica’s musical bases over the course of the album’s 13 tracks, from ruffneck threats (“Anything Goes”) to sweet lovers’ rock (“Can’t Stop Now”) to straight-up dance-floor assaults (“Pon de Floor”). Simultaneously, Diplo and Switch attempt to expand the playing field even as they’re playing on it—the “Major Lazer Theme” may be the first (and last) time any reggae producer thinks to sample Black Flag’s “Six Pack,” for example. One might suppose that this kind of



One constant that runs through almost all of Diplo and Switch's production sessions is weed. This was especially true during the sessions at Kingston's legendary Tuff Gong Studios, which put plenty of joints in the hands of this joint project.

genetic engineering would have put off their local collaborators, but Diplo didn't experience that. "For [the emcees], it's business as usual, so we just go in there and play them the beats. If they like it, they like it, and if they don't, they don't. And some of them just wanna get paid, write a song—same with anybody. If I work

with a major-label artist, they might not have the same vibe."

One constant that runs through almost all of Diplo and Switch's production sessions is weed. This was especially true during their sessions at Kingston's legendary Tuff Gong Studios, which put plenty of joints in the hands of this joint project. "It's definitely something you can't get away from if you're recording in Jamaica," Switch observes. "It's a way of life out there, so 'when in Rome'" This element of the production process is humorously acknowledged in "Mary Jane," a decidedly un-reggae-ish martial romp featuring Swedish rapper Mapei and Dr. Evil (otherwise known as Leftside from Leftside & Esco).

Outside of Jamaica's corrupting influence, however, Switch and Diplo are far more casual in their smoking habits. "For me, any pot is good because I don't really pay for it," Diplo says. "So whoever's got weed around the studio, I'm happy to smoke with them. When I go to California, there's so many different kinds of weed, 'cause it's so much fuckin' high-grade medicinal marijuana. But I don't know the first thing about it; I'm just happy to smoke whatever weed. It's kind of like drinking tea, you know, if I was Japanese—you do it if it's around, just to be respectful."

Clearly, when it comes to toking, Diplo and Switch are hardly in the same league as the major himself. But it matters little, since they've already provided a worthy addition to any stoner's playlist. "The cool thing about me and Wes is, it's kind of hard [for us] to surprise each other musically," says Switch. "Where a lot of people go 'Maybe that's a little bit *too* weird,' me and Wes never seem to be able to get to that point—we're always, 'Okay, let's push it a little *harder*.' So I think it's kind of cool that the amalgamation of both [our skills] makes the record stronger than if we had tried it individually."

And they're not finished by a long shot, since they both mention that a collaboration with Ms. Thing and other dancehall emcees is in the works. So dancehall fanatics should take heed: They haven't seen the last of Major Lazer. ✨



HARVESTING THE KILLING FIELDS WITH DANCEHALL'S FAVORITE CARTOON MERCENARY

Times are often stressful for a one-armed Jamaican mercenary devoted to saving the world from zombies, pimps, mummies and teabaggers. So it's a good thing that marijuana exists to keep this cartoon ruffneck's PTSD from breaking loose. Unsurprisingly, Major Lazer is often difficult to pin down for an interview—but luckily, we were able to ask him some important questions, which the good major responded to from a secure, undisclosed location. We thank him for his contribution to this article and the safety of our universe.

First off, Major Lazer, how should I address you? Do you have a first name? What do your friends call you?

First name, *Major*. Last name, *Lazer*. MAJOR LAZER.

What role has marijuana played in your moral and social development? Well, yu know say a QP a day keeps de doctor away, see me?

About how much weed can you smoke in one sitting? What are your favorite activities while stoned? Boss, me smoke dro by de pound. More time, me just light up a spliff and go operate some heavy machinery and dem ting deh.

What's your favorite strain? And what's your opinion on medical marijuana?

Down ah Trinidad, dem have a hard local whi' de Rasta man dem grow in de hills. Dat me smoke most time. All marijuana medical boss. Herb is de healing of de nation, see me?

As far as Diplo and Switch are concerned, would you consider them championship stoners, or are they just a pair of hipster poseurs unfit to hold your chillum?

Dem can hold dem ting, but more

time, me gone ah lead. Switch 'ave a weed face come in like him on a permanent high.

Have you ever listened to the new album buzzed? Does it sound any different than when you're straight? Yeah, me listen it, bwai when me get high, de autochune a fuck wit me head still.

Everyone's got a favorite marijuana anecdote, about some absurd, outlandish thing they've done when wasted. Out with it. Me naw lie—me did 'ave some interesting times inna Zombie War. But if me tell yu, me aguh kill yu.

What keeps marijuana illegal? Barry O fe stop smoke cigarette and try de real Jamaican ting, den it aguh legalize, see me?

If you ever got the chance to smoke Obama out, what would you tell him? And if Bo ever humped your leg, would you let your laser go "Bo! Bo! Bo!"?

Me know dem yute deh from me CIA bredrin dem, but me naw too involve inna politics ting. Me aguh say, "Ris-speck, boss black prezzy, gwaan big-up yusef." Bwai me nuh inna nuttin wid nuh daag wha unno chat bout. ✨

Chillin' with the Major.





CHALWA CHAMPION

Tarrus Riley is on the rise. **By Rashaun Hall**

'I don't think that herb is something that should have ever been illegal, because the people that make things legal and illegal came on the Earth *after* herb.'

If you don't know the name Tarrus Riley, you soon will. The Jamaican-born roots-reggae singer's music, which combines classic reggae riddims and familiar pop melodies, is just that infectious. In fact, Riley named his most recent album *Contagious*.

"The title was inspired by the song 'Love's Contagious,'" he explains. "My mother's a nurse, so we used some medical terms—like you can't resist it, there's no escape when feelings start creeping up and coming your way. It's like you're coming down with the flu, but you're not sick—you're in love."

"I didn't want to call the album *Love's Contagious*, because I didn't want it to be generally a lovers' album," he adds. "It's an album with different kinds of subjects and topics. So I say *Contagious*—I want to spread my music, and I would like it to be contagious. We're also getting a lot of support from people, so it is *becoming* contagious."

Released in August, the album is Riley's third. In addition to tracks like the anti-domestic-violence anthem "Start a New" and a cover of Michael Jackson's "Human Nature," it also features the marijuana melody "Herbs Promotion." As Riley observes: "Ganja is a very spiritual thing because we're Rasta, man. We want you to know that this plant is a fruit, and it is a very special and spiritual plant. That's why we love HIGH TIMES magazine—because the pictures are so beautiful. I think that smoking is a spiritual thing; that's why in the song I say, 'Well, me nuh inna drugs and me's not much of a drinka/Fool-

ish man drink fi drunk yah/Find me in a secret place with my chalwa."

As a "herbs promoter," Riley is blunt when it comes to the legalization of marijuana stateside. "I don't think that herb is something that should have ever been illegal, because the people that make things legal and illegal came on the Earth *after* herb," he says. "Herb is a fruit, like mango or pineapple—it has been here since creation, so it's unfair to criminalize something that was here before you. That's like Christopher Columbus coming to America, seeing Indians and saying he discovered it. Man wants to come on Earth and say herb is illegal. You don't say the sun is illegal or apples are illegal, so why is the herb illegal? I am not naive to the responsibility that people should take when it comes to herb—I'm just saying that this is a natural thing from the Earth."

A love of ganja isn't the only thing that Riley—the son of Taxi Records singer Jimmy Riley—shares in common with legends like Bob Marley and Beres Hammond. Several critics have already compared him to those reggae greats. It's a compliment that is not lost on Riley, though he sees things a bit differently.

"I don't really compete, so there is no comparison," he says modestly. "You have different kinds of fruits; you have bananas, mangos, pineapples and grapes. You have different types of ganja—this is HIGH TIMES magazine, you know. So I am a different kind of herb. I am a *healing* herb." ✨

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(l to r): Neil Casal, Colin LaRoque, Andy Cabic, "Farmer Dave" Scher, Johnathan Rice and Jonathan Wilson hit the "Drifter."



AFTER THE GREEN RUSH

Inside the first-ever rock'n'roll harvest tour. Story & photos by Shirley Halprin

The perma-grin says it all. Weeks after returning to Los Angeles from the eight-day-long Emerald Triangle tour, a psych-rock caravan he dreamed up and routed around a few of California's top pot spots at the height of fall harvest, "Farmer Dave" Scher is still waxing nostalgic about the trek's stop in Nevada City. The grass was green, the girls were pretty, and it was there that Scher—a solo artist and multi-instrumentalist who's played with the likes of Interpol and Jenny Lewis—saw his vision realized by performing for a roomful of marijuana growers and trimmers (typically, more than three-quarters of experienced manicurists are female—and hot), along with local artists and musicians.

"You have this great landscape of natural beauty and cool people up north," Scher says when asked about the impetus for the tour. Originally, he'd hoped to play actual weed farms, but when the terrain proved too tricky to navigate by van, he settled on nearby music venues—a small theater in Nevada City, a club in San Francisco, even the state's oldest roadhouse outside of Mendocino. "The tour seemed like a good way to reach new places, physically *and* mentally, through music," he says. "And we got to be part of the 'green rush.' We were one with the plant, gazing at the Emerald Eye."

Indeed, these Monsters of Marijuana Folk—which also included Jonathan Wilson, a jam master of the highest order who's played with Chris Robinson and Elvis Costello; Andy Cabic, Vetiver's ardent front man; and Johnathan Rice, a singer-songwriter and Jenny Lewis's right-hand man onstage and off—not only hit the roads less trav-



"Farmer Dave" represents.



The crew gets a lesson in trimming.

'I still don't fully understand why we can't celebrate the leaf like we do the grape.'—'Farmer Dave' Scher

eled by national acts, but also got a crash course in the politics of pot from the opposite end of the supply chain. That meant a trimming lesson on one day, an appearance at a Marijuana Policy Project fundraiser on another, or a simple tasting of the area's finest at any given moment. "Nature's bounty was phenomenally fresh and delightful," Scher recalls with a deep, longing sigh.

As for the music, the guys came together in four-part harmony to play each other's songs, with Wilson leading the '70s rock-god charge, Cabic grooving with an infectious, bouncy sway, Rice delivering songs of biblical-pop proportions, and Scher packing lush soundscapes into every swoony, cosmic turn—a perfect accompaniment to fresh-off-the-branch flavors like Luscious Purple and Blue Dream. Scher even came up with strain names for himself and his bandmates: "J.W. is Afghani Steez; Andy Cabic, Outdoor Miner; and my name would be Tangerine Time Wizard," he laughs.

All joking aside, Scher concedes that despite the Obama administration's decision to stop prosecuting medical-marijuana patients and caregivers, there's still a palpable tension in his home city that reaches far north. "With all the clinics and controversy, LA has become hyper about the green," he says. "Up north, the land was buzzing—like a geyser about to burst. What do they call it ... Old Faithful? But the current legal climate is charged and demands a low-key, even covert style. I still don't fully understand why we can't celebrate the leaf like we do the grape."

So while there may not be a tourist industry for the "green rush" yet (à la Napa's wine country), for Scher, the Emerald Triangle tour was a taste of things to come, and he's already planning future expeditions. "We weren't out to invade the north, but to harmonize with it," he says. "For next year's harvest, we might even go up early and get some trimming in." 🌿

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LAGOS COMES TO TIMES SQUARE

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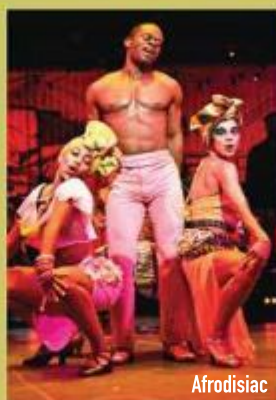
Directed by Bill T. Jones



Let's face it: Only an utter fool could render the life [and music] of Afrobeat originator and Nigerian political/spiritual icon Fela Anikulapo Kuti infellectual. Truly a self-made man in every way, Fela founded and supported his own nightclub and autonomous commune, had up to 27 wives at one time, and survived two armed incursions by a Nigerian military sworn to crush him—all while selling boatloads of records with a joint glued to either hand. Clearly, they don't make pop stars like Fela anymore.

But renowned choreographer and director Bill T. Jones is clearly no fool: The guiding light behind the hit show *Fela!*, he'd already proved the mettle of his vision Off-Broadway before Jay-Z, Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith decided to underwrite *Fela!*'s move uptown. There were some perils involved: Broadway, like Hollywood, is a unique cultural institution that can either steer a creative vision toward pristine MOR blandness or enshrine it in pop-culture paradise. But despite the inaccuracies or omissions that others have found in this translation of Fela's music and message for the theatergoing masses of the, um, Great White Way, *Fela!* stands proud as a Broadway musical for the rest of us.

Set during an imaginary night at Fela's Shrine nightclub in Lagos, the play starts off with "Baba" at the end of his rope: With his mother dead at the hands of the military and his love/hate relationship with Nigeria veering



into full-blown contempt, he talks of leaving his homeland for greener pastures. From there, Fela—played with arch coolness in the performance I caught by Kevin Mambo—bares his soul and life story. In classic Broadway fashion, these monologues merely set the stage for the musical numbers to follow. But as any Fela devotee knows, Baba didn't write show tunes, and with Brooklyn's own Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra supplying the deeply energetic backbeat and arrangements of Fela's most durable anthems, the performances explode with anger, passion and ec-

stasy. Moreover, the selection and sequencing of songs by Jones and his co-writer, Jim Lewis, adds momentum to the show's dramatic arc, building on Fela's musical influences in the "Breaking It Down" segment to encompass all the suffering ("Trouble Sleep"), political rage ("Pipeline"/"International Thief Thief," buttressed by rear-screen projections of stock tickers and call-outs to Halliburton, AIG, Dutch Shell and other modern-day corporate jackals), and spiritual uplift at the heart of Fela's artistic achievements.

Yes, Fela was an unrepentant womanizer and notorious control freak, and these facts are glossed over or simply left unmentioned in the play's portrayal. Thankfully for HIGH TIMES readers, his *igbo* advocacy is faithfully covered when he recounts the anecdote that inspired the song "Expensive Shit." "How do you think I'm able to write so much music?" Fela asks the audience while lighting up. "It's the wellspring of creativity!"—Justin Hampton

GEORGE CASE

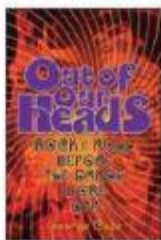
Out of Our Heads: Rock 'n' Roll Before the Drugs Wore Off

(Backbeat Books)



In 1964, Bob Dylan and journalist Al Aronowitz visited the Beatles at the Delmonico Hotel in New York, armed with enough grass for several joints. "We've got a lot to thank Dylan for," said a cryptic and bemused John Lennon later. Bob's gift to the Fabs at the Delmonico is one more instance of the well-known benefits that altered consciousness bestows upon the artist. The combination of poetic lyrics and a driving beat revolutionized popular music, and it probably would've occurred to these visionaries without cannabis—but the fact is that cannabis was part of the equation, and it certainly didn't hurt.

George Case uses the story of the Dylan/Beatles pot party as bookends for his tome about the effect of drugs on rock 'n' roll (with a bit of sex thrown in). He includes enough tawdry gossip to satisfy readers seeking celebrity titillation, but most of these toot-and-tell tales are already common knowledge; instead, it's the thoughtful analysis of drugs and creativity that makes this book a fine read. The Delmonico incident serves as a metaphor for the maturation of rock; later, cocaine acts as a symbol for its dumbing-down. Toward the end, the book becomes an impassioned defense of the best aspects of classic rock (stellar musicianship), while also critiquing the worst (shameless commodification). And despite Case's efforts to show the downside of drugs, there's enough here to suggest that if one is in the creativity racket, marijuana is indeed a trusted associate.—Michael Simmons



THE BRIAN JONESTOWN MASSACRE

Who Killed Sgt. Pepper?

(A Records Ltd.)



In some other, possibly better world, flies in the ointment like Anton Newcombe would get medals pinned to their tiny chests for the uncompromising purity of their irritating behavior. Newcombe in fact has evolved into a creator of the smartest primitive-intuitive music you're ever likely to hear. And if he's misunderstood—well, that's just in Newcombe's nature [and increasingly by his own shrewd design], as the Brian Jonestown Massacre's new *Who Killed Sgt. Pepper?* makes at least murkily clear. Recorded in Iceland and Berlin and featuring Spaceman 3's Will Carruthers on bass, vocalist Unnur Andrea Einarsdottir and a bunch of other international-type musicians, the "psychedelic" co-op's 10th studio album finds them exploring big messes of arcane sound, hemmed expertly within the context of Newcombe's fevered railings.

"Tunger Hnifur" uncoils with a genuinely scary real-rock swagger. "Let's Go Fucking Mental" is chilling too, like Primal Scream wrapping the Fall in barbed wire. The album's overall cohesion and relative tunefulness apparently owes a bit to the return of guitarist/vocalist Matt Hollywood, a BJM co-founder who helped write some of the band's "classic" material (such as the notorious Dandy Warhols diss "Not If You Were the Last Dandy on Earth"). Perhaps that's his influence felt on "This Is the One Thing We Did Not Want to Have Happen," which manages to beat Joy Division at their own game. This is almost impossibly convulsive rock that dares you *not* to nod and twitch, twitch, twitch.—John Payne



DEMIGOD

Born, Play, Work, Die

(Global Recording Artists)



From the skunky green hills of California's Emerald Triangle comes Demigod, a band for those who like music they can shake their fists to. Founded in 1999 by singer Bruce Shakman and bassist Keith Graves, a San Francisco session man who's worked with Guitar Shorty and Rico Reyes of the Santana band as well as Dave Beaudry, Demigod's sophomore effort hits the streets nine years after their eponymous debut. Filling out the lineup is Ralph Patlan (Michael Schenker's producer) on guitar and Shane Gaalaas (who's played with Schenker and Yngwie Malmsteen) on drums. With those sorts of creds, it's no surprise that the music here is hard with progressive undertones and a Seattle-esque loud/soft/loud, guitar-driven edge.

The song "Demigod" starts off with a crushing beat that drops out to an almost Grateful Dead-like space section shot through with winding strands of overdriven guitar noise. "Born, Play, Work, Die" keeps you guessing throughout, opening with a pastoral plucking that seconds later is bludgeoned by power chords like a pair of boots grinding a butterfly into the earth. The band shows their poppy side with tracks like "I Remember Tuesday" and "Killin' Me" before diving back into the all-out fury of "Walk Away," with its running bass lines and searing leads. Heavy riffage dominates "Cheer the Sorrow" until it breaks down to metallic funk and finally leaves us with some steady wah-wah weirdness. Fans of Alice in Chains and Marilyn Manson will be pleasantly surprised by these up-and-comers.—Chris Simunek



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Coca Cabana

Amsterdam is home to many diverse museums, including well-known attractions like the Rijks, Van Gogh and Tulip museums, as well as more unorthodox exhibits like the Sex, Torture, and Hash, Marihuana

& Hemp museums. Last year, I paid a visit to the most recent of these illicit exhibitions—a museum devoted exclusively to that notorious narcotic, the coca plant.

Opened in August of 2008, the Coca Leaf Experience is a modest but informative little shop devoted to educating the public on the history, benefits and dangers of coca in all its forms. The museum was founded by the makers of Agwa de Bolivia—a green, 60-proof liqueur made right in the city with coca leaves imported from Bolivia. While the company capitalizes somewhat on the lingo and mystique of cocaine in its marketing, in reality its product bears little similarity to the drug—with the cocaine alkaloid removed, the beverage is not addictive and is perfectly legal. The museum's manager, Tommy Burke, was expecting me when I arrived, and he welcomed me with a cup of hot coca-leaf tea before schooling me on the history of this much maligned and misunderstood plant.

"Coca leaf is not the same as cocaine—it's very different," Burke explained as he began the tour. "It was believed to be of divine origin by the Incas, and the Andean people have been chewing it for over 5,000 years. It's a wonder leaf—it's packed with nutrients and has been used as an herbal remedy for countless ailments, including headache, rheumatism, malaria, ulcers and asthma, as well as to aid digestion and as an anesthetic and aphrodisiac. It's also good for altitude sickness, to take away hunger, for energy, opening your airways, and relieving symptoms of osteoporosis."

Display cases full of actual advertisements, photos, documents and artifacts illustrate the evolution of the coca plant. The cocaine alkaloid (which comprises a mere 0.08 percent of the leaf) was first isolated in 1855; in 1863, it was incorporated into a wine (in France) that was enthusiastically imbibed and endorsed by popes and royalty alike. By 1886, coca wines had morphed into syrup-like remedial tonics, one of the most popular of which became known as Coca Cola. It wasn't until the beginning of the 20th century that the addictive and dangerous nature of the active alkaloid cocaine was recognized, prompting its removal from the cola in 1904 and its general prohibition in

which conversely caused a swell in its popularity during the swinging '70s.

As the publication of record on drug culture, HIGH TIMES covered the coke craze during this period—earning us a small chapter in the drug's history, and thus a place at the museum (some vintage copies of HT are on display there). However, once its destructive power became apparent in the mid-1980s, the magazine rightly disassociated itself from the "white devil" and has never condoned or promoted its use (or any other hard drug) since then. According to Burke, neither does the museum or its proprietors.

"Our purpose is not to glamorize cocaine in any way," he assures me, "merely to educate about the plant. When you tell a story, you have to tell the whole story. We show both sides."

In recent years, there has been a growing movement in Bolivia, Peru and Venezuela to differentiate coca, the plant, from cocaine, the drug, and to remove it from the United Nations' list of controlled substances. Burke believes that if coca were to be decriminalized, cocaine use might actually decline.

"There would be so much demand for coca leaf that the farmers would get a decent price for their crop," he postulates, "and the demand for cocaine would be less, because people could chew the leaf or drink the tea. Of course, there will always be people who want to do the hardcore stuff, but what's the harm in giving people a safer choice?"

By the time my tea buzz wore off, I'd learned that despite cocaine's well-documented potential for abuse and addiction, the coca leaf in and of itself is neither addictive nor lethal. Like cannabis, coca is a just plant—it comes from the earth and has been used medicinally, spiritually and recreationally since the dawn of civilization. For those who value proof above propaganda and history above hysteria, the Coca Leaf Experience can be a fun and informative way to spend an hour or so between coffeeshops the next time you're visiting Amsterdam. ✨

For more information about Agwa de Bolivia and the Coca Leaf Experience, go to agwabuzz.com. For the video on this story, go to hightimes.com/bobbyblack.



Above: The Coca Leaf Museum in Amsterdam. Left: The staff show off some of their Agwa coca liquor.



1912. But it wasn't until 1970 that the drug was placed on the controlled-substances list,



HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH CIRRUS MINOR

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Their debut EP, *Awaiting Dilation* (released in January 2009), flows from driven psychedelic rock to reggae, folk and blues, touching on a variety of other genres along the way. And their upcoming album (due out in spring 2010) promises to be even more of a rollercoaster ride.

The band got together in early 2008, and since then they've brought their one-of-a-kind performances to festival and venue stages around the Midwest, leaving a trail of rave reviews in their wake. With an ever-evolving laser-light display and mesmerizing, spur-of-the-moment musical explorations at every show, each Cirrus Minor concert is a unique phenomenon. The band plans to be on the road again in the spring to support their new album, and they'll be hitting the festival circuit throughout the summer.

For more information on Cirrus Minor, including tour dates, audio/video samples and live-concert downloads, check out hightimes.com/cirrusminor.



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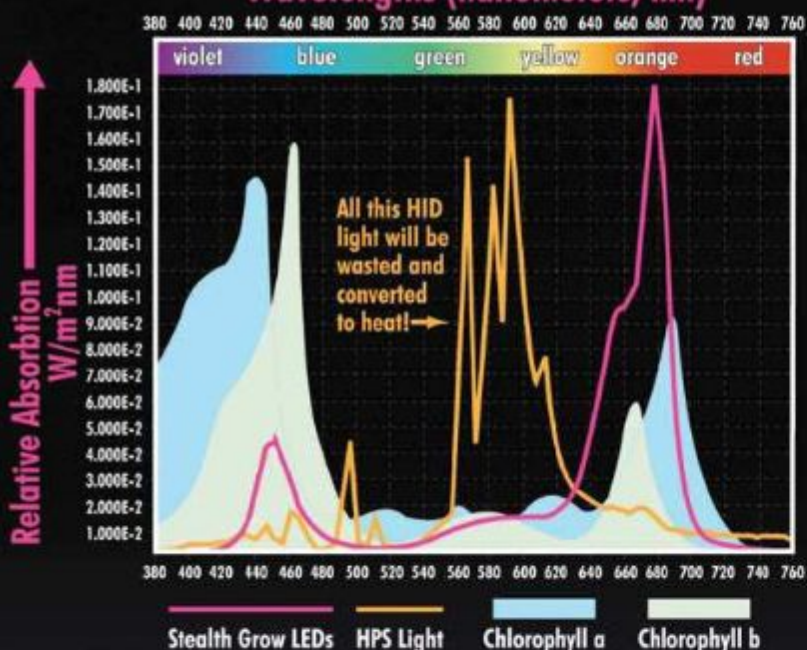
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Censorship at Facebook

Swastikas seem to be more acceptable than breasts. By Paul Krassner

Mikal Gilmore, one of the best journalists covering the counterculture, is the author of *Stories Done: Writings on the 1960s and Its Discontents*. "For more than half of the subjects here," he states, "including Ken Kesey, Timothy Leary and the Haight-Ashbury, psychedelics were a major factor in their lives" But recently Gilmore himself had a bad trip resulting from an overdose of that modern drug, Facebook.

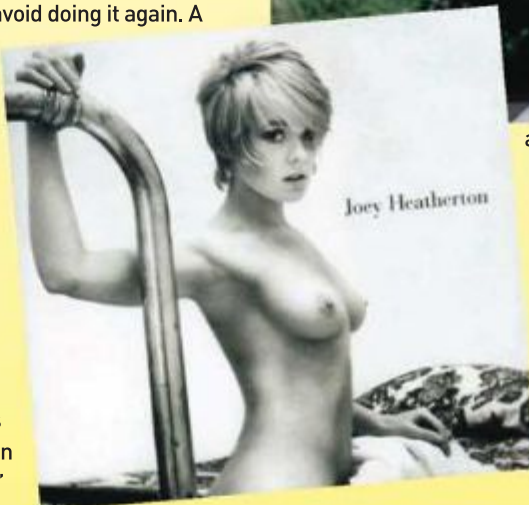
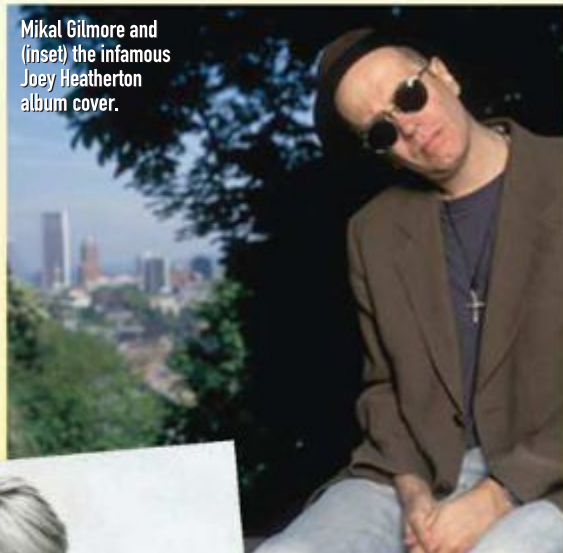
Like so many others, Gilmore's account was suddenly shut down—and since they wouldn't tell him *why* he was kicked off the island, he had no way of knowing what he did wrong or how to avoid doing it again. A

Facebook friend who attempted to contact him with no success informed me that, "after numerous tries, I got this horrible warning that covered the screen screaming 'DANGEROUS.' Holy shit! To say it was disconcerting is an understatement."

Gilmore later explained the situation to me: "I was booted, I'm told, because of an image I posted. I was listening one night a few months ago to an early-1970s pop album by Joey Heatherton, and I was struck by her voice, how good it could be when she worked at it. I posted something to that effect, and I also posted the album cover, which I always try to do when I mention some music or music artist (or a book or movie). This particular album has a photo of Heatherton baring her breasts. Last week, I couldn't access my account and was told I'd been dropped for violating Facebook policy, but they couldn't tell me what the specific offense was because, 'for security reasons,' they just can't do that.

"Since I'd acquired several friends at Facebook, and because my wife loves to take matters in hand, several people there raised a ruckus. I didn't ask anybody to. In fact, I thought my deactivation was just some fluke mistake, but Facebook refused to answer any of my inquiries and also refused to answer anybody else's protests. I was going to give up any idea of rejoining. Then, the same day I came to that conclusion, Facebook restored me and told me they had deleted the offensive image. They never told me what the image was, but a Facebook member who has a relative at the place finally learned that it was the Heatherton

Mikal Gilmore and (inset) the infamous Joey Heatherton album cover.



album cover, and that Facebook had taken the action because another Facebook member had complained about the image."

Meanwhile, attorney Brian Cuban has been fighting his own battle with Facebook, trying to get them to remove the pages of Holocaust-denial groups. We both agree that

the First Amendment doesn't apply to private companies, but he added: "I think you have to look at the way free speech is evolving in historical context. We have come into an age where, with the advent of the Internet and unchecked values out there in the blogosphere, mere words have in fact driven people to commit violent acts."

So I asked him: "When you spoke to Facebook about why they don't tell people why they were dropped, how did they justify that?"

"It was a justification of cost/benefit. I think they would love to give everyone a detailed explanation of why they've been dropped, to prove there *is* no conspiracy there, as many people believe. In my battle with Facebook over Holocaust-denial groups, I've been hit with countless emails asking me to ask them why there's a Jewish conspiracy at Facebook—to get rid of Jewish activists and to get rid of Jews in general—because we're raising all this fuss about Holocaust denial. In reality, I think it's just cost/benefit: They don't have the infrastructure to give everyone an explanation."

Perhaps Mikal Gilmore should have just covered Joey Heatherton's nipples with swastikas. ✦

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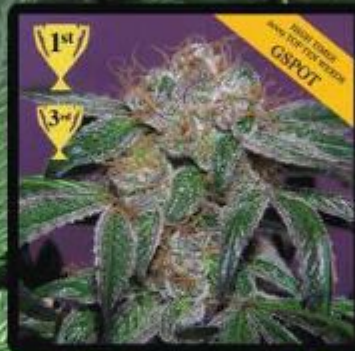
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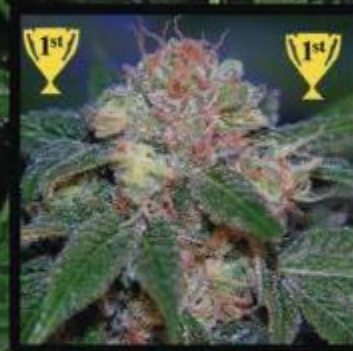
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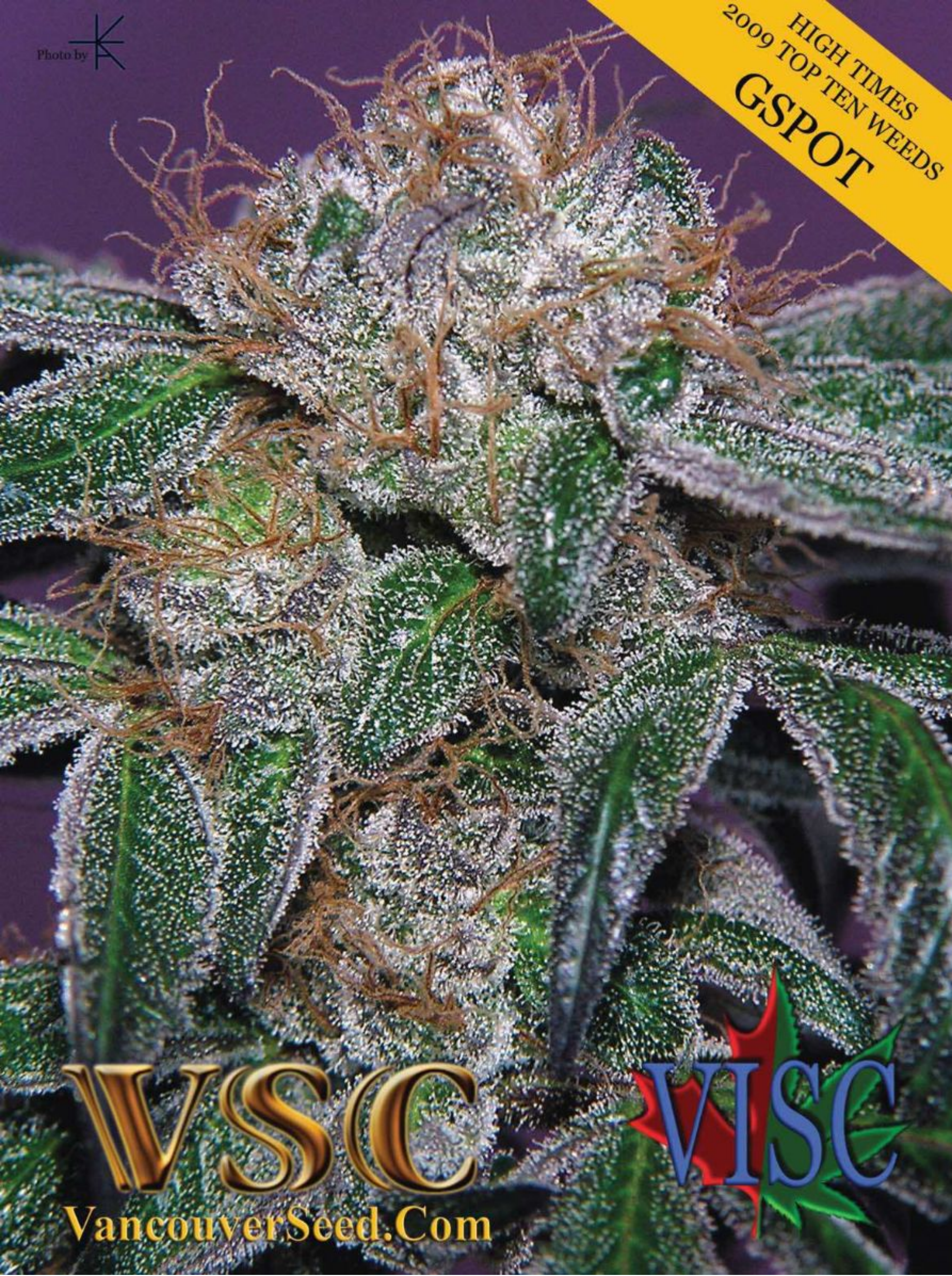
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CALIFORNIA'S CANNABIS KINGDOM

In California, safe access is still being obstructed in many areas. Even in legendary Trinity County, where prime buds have been cultivated for generations, growers must regularly face down the anti-cannabis zealots in their midst. **Story & photos by Dan Skye**

Whether deserved or not, California possesses an allure that has captivated Americans. Ever since the days of the Gold Rush 160 years ago, the West Coast has beckoned those seeking to better their lot in life or reinvent themselves.

For close to a century, California's massive entertainment industry has drawn thousands of dreamers to Hollywood. But the state's exponential growth following World War II—stoked by the oil and aerospace industries—provided thousands of new jobs and helped fuel the notion that settling in sunny California was the fulfillment of the American Dream. It often seemed that, while everyone else in the country had to work, California was busy having fun. It was the land of surfing, Beach Boys music, hippies and the Summer of Love. The New Age movement took root here, helping to seal California's reputation as the homeland of the "Me Generation," renowned for its exploration of the self. The marijuana revolution began here, too: California laid the foundation for redefining cannabis in America by passing Proposition 215 in 1996, and now 14 states have followed suit, enacting some form of medical-pot laws.

But there's a flip side to the Golden State. Few gold miners got rich during the Gold Rush (although cooks, laundresses and those who sold shovels to the miners did quite well). And according to popular lore, Hollywood is a jungle, a heartbreaking experience for most aspirants. Sure, it's sunny here, but there are also earthquakes, wildfires and mudslides. And while California's growth may have been epic, the state is now bankrupt—which means the Me Generation is more concerned with the self than ever before, except now those concerns have more to do with holding onto a job and keeping a roof over the poor self's head.

As for cannabis, the revolution did indeed start here, but the battles are far from over. In major municipalities across the state, supporters of medical cannabis have been striving to implement safe access for 14 years, while politicians and law-enforcement officials—people duly sworn to uphold the new law, at least in theory—have done their best to thwart those efforts.

In Los Angeles, the City Council has dealt ineffectually with the proliferating dispensary scene for the last two years, not least by imposing an ill-de-

vised moratorium that allowed the number of dispensaries to balloon to nearly 1,000. For the past six months, council members have been trying to thin that number down to less than 100. The rhetoric has been incredibly divisive, as evidenced by LA County District Attorney Steve Cooley's statement that "about 100 percent of dispensaries in Los Angeles County and the city are operating illegally." The findings of newly elected City Attorney Carmen Trutanich regarding the proper interpretation of state law have been equally vexing; he insists that the exchange of medicine between growers and patients was intended to be on a nonprofit and non-cash basis only.

Trutanich never specified what special monetary system he has in mind for cannabis commerce, but obviously it is not of this planet. His objective, like Cooley's, is clearly to ban all dispensaries. Regardless, in late January, the City Council voted to close roughly 800 medical marijuana dispensaries in the city, a move that will require many of those remaining to relocate. If the ordinance takes effect this spring, dispensaries will have to move away from "sensitive use" sites: churches, public parks, schools, rehab centers, and other dispensaries. They'll also be required to grow all their cannabis on-site, test it for pesticides, plus fulfill a whole new set of security and registration requirements.

While Los Angeles grudgingly tries to formulate some system of control, the Board of Commissioners in San Diego County—which has always been openly hostile to medical marijuana—has imposed a series of harsh moratoriums on dispensaries to prevent them from opening in unincorporated areas of the county. In the city of San Diego, the police department has mounted a number of raids on dispensaries over the past three years, spurred on by District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis. After this past summer's raid on 14 city dispensaries, Dumanis fatuously claimed: "Like most San Diegans, I support the use of legitimate and legal medical-marijuana use. However, it appears these so-called marijuana dispensaries are nothing more than for-profit storefront drug-dealing operations run by drug dealers hiding behind the state's medical-marijuana law."

The Mad River flows lazily through Trinity County during harvest season.



Tragic, a cross of Train Wreck and Magic.



Some suspect Jedi, a powerful strain with unknown origins, has White Widow genetics.



A healthy specimen of Sour Diesel.



Redwood Kush is a local Trinity strain.

Recently, the San Diego City Council declined to endorse proposed regulations that would govern the operation of medical-marijuana dispensaries in the city, opting instead to forward the recommendations to a committee for more vetting. Ironically, the proposed regulations were the work of an 11-member task force that had been appointed by the City Council itself to resolve this very issue.

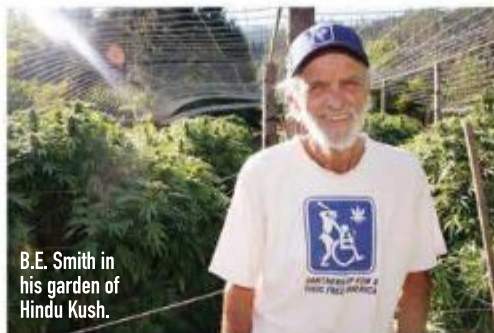
Obviously, bureaucratic stalling is an effective means of controlling and even eliminating dispensaries in California. An outright ban is another—an action that over 100 smaller cities and towns and seven counties in the state have implemented. But this year, California courts will address the legality of outlawing an activity that has been deemed lawful by a majority of the state's voters acting in accordance with the state's constitution.

The root problem, as always, is undoing decades of government-sponsored propaganda—a seemingly eternal task. Millions of Americans continue to hold deep reservations about the cannabis plant, convinced that pot is a dangerous drug and that marijuana growing is a profession engaged in by criminals who are becoming filthy rich.

For those who buy into this myth, the “filthy rich” part is often instrumental in fueling anti-pot sentiment, especially among people hard hit by the recession. Resentment can be a powerful tool. However, the population of growers in California increases annually, whether engaged in indoor grow ops or lower-scale outdoor ventures. The spike in growers and ganja production has triggered a corresponding reduction in prices, especially at harvest time, when cash-poor growers rush their pot to market for a quick payday. Reports of pounds selling for as little as \$800 are not uncommon—confirmation of the hard fact that many Californians are barely living above the poverty line and desperate for income.

Contrary to the mainstream media's portrayals of newly wealthy California growers living a life of pimped-out luxury, most of the people who choose to grow medical marijuana are simply trying to

B.E.'s garden of Tragic (Train Wreck x Magic) is nourished by the ashes of Woody Harrelson's father.



'This is the third poorest county in the state. The mills and mining have been played out. What are people gonna do?'

—B.E. Smith

raise themselves up to a middle-class existence. “Maybe they can buy themselves a pick-up truck or a few more toys at Christmas for the kids, if they're lucky,” explains B.E. Smith. “It ain't the lavish lifestyle of a Colombian cocaine-cartel chieftain.”

B.E. is speaking from his experience on the front lines: Trinity County is where he lives, a rugged region of Northern California that produces record amounts of pot each year. Along with Humboldt and Mendocino counties, Trinity makes up part of the Emerald Triangle, our nation's top region for growing the green.

B.E. has been living here for over 30 years and has become an integral part of his community's cannabis network. Now in his mid-sixties, he has been intimately involved with the evolution of cannabis in California—as a master grower who has produced a variety of outstanding strains, but also as a marijuana political prisoner who served 27 months in jail a decade ago, after being convicted of growing 87 plants.

A Vietnam vet who speaks in a gentle, backwoods Alabama drawl, B.E.'s known far and wide for not much caring about the consequences of being honest to a fault. “Take a look around—people are poor here,” he says. “This is the third-poorest county in the state. The biggest employers are the local, state and federal governments. The mills and mining have been played out. What are people gonna do? Sure, there are some big grows, and some people are makin' money. But after your equipment, your time, and what you might lose from mold, bugs, freezes, fire and sometimes cops, nobody's getting rich.”

But if you came across any of a number of news stories vilifying marijuana growers in Trinity County over the past year, you might think otherwise. This Fox News description of the sleepy town of Hayfork in southern Trinity is absolutely laughable: “Legal cannabis cultivation has become Hayfork's No. 1 industry. Sophisticated indoor and outdoor growing operations are flourishing, thanks to the region's climate, cheap real estate, and local laws allowing medical-marijuana farming and possession.

“Lawful or not, the cannabis culture is dividing the town.

“Retirees, including many grandparents, say they've had it with the bad element that exposes kids to the drug trade—from the buyers who come in with their foul language and poor hygiene to the farmers who guard their crops with guns and attack dogs ”

However, it was a lengthy piece in the supposedly more reasonable *Los Angeles Times* that really infuriated county residents. Appearing at the height of harvest season, the article invoked the terror of “strangers with dreadlocks and cash boxes” and portrayed an out-of-control



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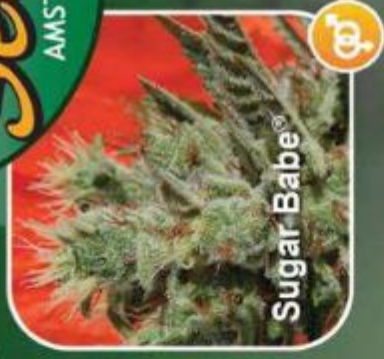
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marijuana free-for-all tearing apart the fabric of the community here, creating a blighted area that longtime residents were anxious to leave.

"I took great offense at that article," says County Board Supervisor Howard Freeman. "This is not a local problem—this is a *national* problem. I am a vocal proponent of medical-marijuana rights, and we are struggling to find the middle ground like everyone else. We are trying to proceed in a reasonable fashion so everyone's rights are protected. This is beautiful country with friendly people; this is not the Wild West. Saying ridiculous things, like you can get a prescription here for pot by using a doctor from a matchbook cover, serves no purpose."

B.E. sees the media simply as pandering to its audience. "There are a lot of conservative folks still holding on to their ideology," he says. "It's hard to break through to them about the medical benefits of marijuana. They get a little defensive."

"A little defensive" might be putting it mildly, because the folks who oppose medical marijuana in Trinity County have hardly been docile. Late last year, two anti-pot ordinances were introduced for action by the County Board of Supervisors: One sought a moratorium on the opening of medical-marijuana dispensaries until zoning restrictions could be formulated, and the other was clearly an enforcement tool designed to crack down on marijuana gardens countywide. The dispensary ordinance was dealt with in early January, when the Board of Supervisors postponed any action on it until more research could be done. But the second, so-called "nuisance" ordinance galvanized the growing community in Trinity.

The purpose of the ordinance is to control the medical scene through a system of fines for violations of the county code. It authorizes the directors of a number of county departments to aggressively issue citations for code violations—specifically the sheriff and the directors of Planning, Building and Development, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Solid Waste, Transportation, and the office of the Treasurer/Tax Collector.

The ordinance isn't fooling anyone: It's basically a wide-ranging crackdown that encourages county residents to inform on their neighbors. It was birthed in an ad hoc committee that was charged with researching the issue of dispensaries. Howard Freeman says the committee overstepped its bounds. "Number one, we don't have the manpower to enforce such an ordinance," he points out. "Secondly, the opposition to such an invasive law is very substantial."

The area known as the Trinity Pines draws the most gripes from medical-pot opponents. It's an expanse of forestland that has been sliced into hundreds of parcels. Buy-sell transactions are brisk here. Many of the med-pot gardens have no buildings on the property, just trailers or even tents. Some of the growers do create trash heaps, and many are growing well beyond the county's plant limits (though this is a statewide phenomenon). There are also reports of unfriendly behavior in the Pines. Like anywhere else in the world of marijuana, growers get edgy toward harvest and are wary of strangers. Real-

'We are trying to proceed in a reasonable fashion so everyone's rights are protected. This is not the Wild West.'—Howard Freeman

istically, this is no place for a nature walk.

Nor is it an easy place from which to transport plants. Trinity County has only a few main roads; when pot has to be moved, cell-phone activity is nonstop and filled with reports of lone cop cars lurking in the shadows. Newcomers may flock to the Pines, but it's a hard life. Ironically, the Trinity people who complained the loudest in the *LA Times* article about the lack of control over the grow scene and the shady people in their neighborhoods have had to witness a whole new land rush. As a result, a fresh horde of growers will be around for this year's season.



Freshly trimmed buds set out in drying trays.

HIGH POINT IN HISTORY

Will California legalize recreational use?

How old is the oldest pot-smoking registered voter in California, and how long has he or she been waiting for a chance to pull the lever in favor of legalizing marijuana?

This November, we'll find out. Nearly 15 years after California passed Prop. 215, America's first statewide medical-marijuana law, the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010 will most likely be on the ballot, designed to end cannabis prohibition in California once and for all.

Oaksterdam impresario Richard Lee has led the campaign for signatures. The founder of Oaksterdam University, America's first cannabis-cultivation "trade school," and the proprietor of several Oakland-based medical-cannabis dispensaries, Lee reports that over 700,000 signatures have been collected in favor of putting the initiative before voters—far more than the 433,971 required. In fact, collecting the signatures took only two of the five months allotted for the process. Even more encouraging, recent surveys put support for marijuana legalization in California at 56 percent—more evidence that the time is right to put this issue before the electorate.

The signatures were submitted to the California Secretary of State in February. Assuming that the requisite number is validated, the initiative will appear on the ballot in November 2010. Also, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger won't be running again thanks to term limits. Given the state's majority support for cannabis-law reform and major budget shortfalls, marijuana legalization—and its attendant tax revenue—could very well become a pivotal issue in the gubernatorial race this year.

What will the Cannabis Act of 2010 do?

The proposed law allows people 21 years or older to possess, cultivate or transport marijuana for personal use; permits local governments to regulate and tax the commercial production and sale of marijuana to people 21 years or older; prohibits people from possessing marijuana on school grounds, using it in public, smoking it while minors are present, or providing it to anyone under 21 years of age; and maintains the current prohibitions against driving while impaired.

A summary of the estimated fiscal impact on state and local governments by the Legislative Analyst's Office and the state director of finance found savings of up to tens of millions of dollars annually on the costs of incarcerating and supervising marijuana offenders, as well as unknown but potentially major tax-, fee- and benefit-assessment revenues to state and local governments from the production and sale of marijuana products.—David Bienenstock

Check taxcannabis2010.org for more information about the initiative.



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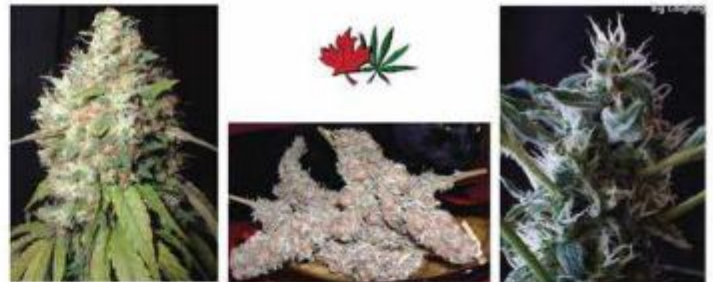


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Hydro Randy, who grew his crops in the Pines for years, sees both sides. "I have small kids so, no, it's not a place where I want to raise them," he acknowledges. "But c'mon—plenty of people have reservations about their neighbors. Is that so unusual? But what really ticks me off is when people start saying that growers are ruining the economy. Really? These people would have nothing to complain about if we weren't here, because *they* wouldn't be here."

Hydro Randy is stating the obvious: There are no empty buildings in Trinity County these days. Real estate is booming. Businesses of every kind have started to prosper because money is being spent freely. Furthermore, the anti-pot crowd seems to be unaware that the local police would have little to occupy their time without the marijuana "problem." In effect, marijuana growers bankroll their own harassment with their purchases, providing the tax revenue to fund law enforcement.

Probably the most elusive foes in the War on Weed here are the legendary Mexican cartels. Supposedly, international crime syndicates are harvesting thousands of pounds in Northern California's national forests. The DEA and state drug-enforcement officials have been screaming about the involvement of Mexican cartels in the pot trade for years, often blaming their inability to make a dent in statewide pot production on these phantom-like Mexicans camped out deep in the woods, funded by drug lords south of the border.

This hoax is a big part of the misinformation equation. The Mexican cartels are allegedly transporting illegal aliens 1,000 miles north into the federal forests of California's northernmost counties in order to grow pot—which does



A garden in full bloom in the Trinity Pines.

'These people would have nothing to complain about if we weren't here, because *they* wouldn't be here.'—Hydro Randy

seem a little cost-intensive. Throw in transportation, fertilizers, irrigation equipment, water, food, security, and also the difficulties of harvesting and transporting hundreds of pounds of bud out of the forests, on highways crawling with state cops who stop any vehicle

that looks vaguely suspicious, and you'll see why many locals look askance at these tales. "Seems like a lot of work," B.E. says laconically. "And what are they getting—a pound per plant? I thought those cartel guys was supposed to be pretty smart dudes," he adds with a wink. "But if this is the way they're doing business, then they're pretty stupid."

Much to the government's dismay, however, years of Drug War propaganda haven't diminished the cannabis market by any means. In fact, marijuana has become the largest cash crop in America. Billions have been spent on interdiction, but marijuana production has managed to increase tenfold over the past 25 years. Experts estimate that the market value of the nation's total pot crop exceeds \$35 billion, far more than the value of its top three legal cash crops—corn, soybeans and hay. Over one-third of production occurs in California alone, a harvest worth approximately \$13.8 billion. Pot is the top cash crop in a dozen other states as well.

It's been estimated that the US could reap over \$100 billion in tax revenues annually by legalizing marijuana. The impact upon California alone, which is struggling with a \$21 billion deficit this year, would be enormous. Eliminating the costs of law enforcement (arrest, adjudication and imprisonment) and creating a new system whereby taxes and other charges are levied upon this booming industry has never made more sense. Marijuana is well on its way to becoming a mainstream commodity—and when bean counters start projecting those piles of weed-generated tax revenue, it's only a matter of time before the politicians decide to collect. ✨

Mark Miller contributed to this article.

DRY TIMES IN THE DESERT

In one of California's wealthiest enclaves, medical pot is shunned.

Since 2005, Stacy Hochanadel has been fighting for the life of his medical-marijuana dispensary in Palm Springs. He's been fighting for his own life since 1994.

Stacy was 17, with a football scholarship to Colorado State, when he was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis following a swim in the Colorado River. After the removal of his lower intestine, Hochanadel spent two years in various hospitals recovering and adjusting to his new life. Different hospitals meant different pills, and Hochanadel was stuffed full of them.

In 2002, after trying pot for the first time to help deal with his pain, he founded CannaHelp, a dispensary on El Paseo, the Palm Springs version of glitzy Rodeo Drive. But in 2005, Hochanadel and both of his dispensary man-



Stacy Hochanadel stands tall at CannaHelp.

agers were arrested and charged with three felony counts apiece for the suspected illegal possession, sale and transport of marijuana.

They beat the charges in 2006, but the city kicked CannaHelp off of El Paseo and forced it to move to the more industrial area of Palm

Desert, where CannaHelp is currently located—and remains unopened to this day.

CannaHelp has always been a popular and efficiently run dispensary. All medicine was grown on the premises. Currently, 800 patients are registered with Can-

naHelp, and back when it was open, it served up to 300 people per day. But although Hochanadel runs CannaHelp as a nonprofit collective, the city refuses to see it that way. Palm Desert officials have revoked his business license, ruling that CannaHelp doesn't comply with the provisions allowing medical-marijuana use under Prop. 215. Not coincidentally, the seven other dispensaries in the Palm Springs/Palm Desert area have also been closed by the city, which has cited "numerous violations directly attributable to [these] establishments that have had a negative impact on public health and safety." CannaHelp awaits a revocation vote early 2010.

"I'm the poster boy for what sick looks like," Hochanadel says. "I'm trying to help our patients get better, feel better, and I'm trying to do this totally legitimately. Whatever they want ... just stop shutting us down."

—Natasha Lewin

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This small bedroom holds only 12 plants, but yields 10 pounds of primo ganja.



There are now 15 states in the US with medical-marijuana laws of some kind. However, most of these states have strict growing limits, and many of them severely restrict what medical growers can and can't do within the confines of their growroom. Limits on plant numbers, canopy size and even grow lamps are just a few of the factors confronting patients and their caregivers.

Even so, most growers simply aren't able to grow hundreds of plants due to the limitations of their own grow space. So how exactly are we supposed to grow excellent medicine (and lots of it!) while following the guidelines and playing by the rules? Well, rest easy; the answers aren't so difficult after all. Here's a simple guide toward maximizing your yields indoors—even when growing with less plants, fewer lights and a smaller space.

SOME SOUND GROW THEORY

Obviously, growing outdoors helps immensely when dealing with the restrictive limits of medical-marijuana laws, since outdoor growers can raise towering plants—or, more accurately, *trees*—that will offer patients huge yields of quality herb while staying within plant limits. And with the power of the sun (free light!), the richness and depth of the Earth's natural soils, and the sky's ceiling-less space, bountiful air and effervescent rains, outdoor gardeners have less to worry about than your average indoor grower.

In order to get the same kind of yields indoors a grower needs to replicate several features of an outdoor garden. The ideal is to grow plants that are large enough to provide outdoor-sized yields—but without compromising the quality of your herb.

Quality is often compromised by overtaxing indoor gardens in various ways. Over-feeding, over-heating and over-lighting are some common



Yes, this is one plant.



A shallow but wide root bed, plus a lot of trellising, make indoor plants like this possible.

problems that diminish the quality of indoor marijuana. It's important to remember that plants prefer simple gardens that allow them to do their work naturally. And thanks to the superb types of genetics we have these days, the potential for your plants to produce high-quality cannabis is at an all-time high; they really need very little help from us to do it!

Alas, it's usually impossible to completely re-create outdoor gardens indoors due to parameter restraints such as the height of ceilings, the overall room volume and the size of the garden beds. Still, this in no way means that indoor gardens cannot maximize their potential and reap huge yields of quality medicine. For starters, we can maximize root space and growth in order to allow plants to maximize their *indoor yield potential*. While this may not compare with the same plant's size or yield potential outdoors, by employing a few simple indoor-gardening techniques, patients and caregivers will reward themselves with lush, flowering plants.

Remember, keeping plants happy and healthy is the simplest way that growers can maximize a garden's potential.



Notice how many "tops" these four plants have.

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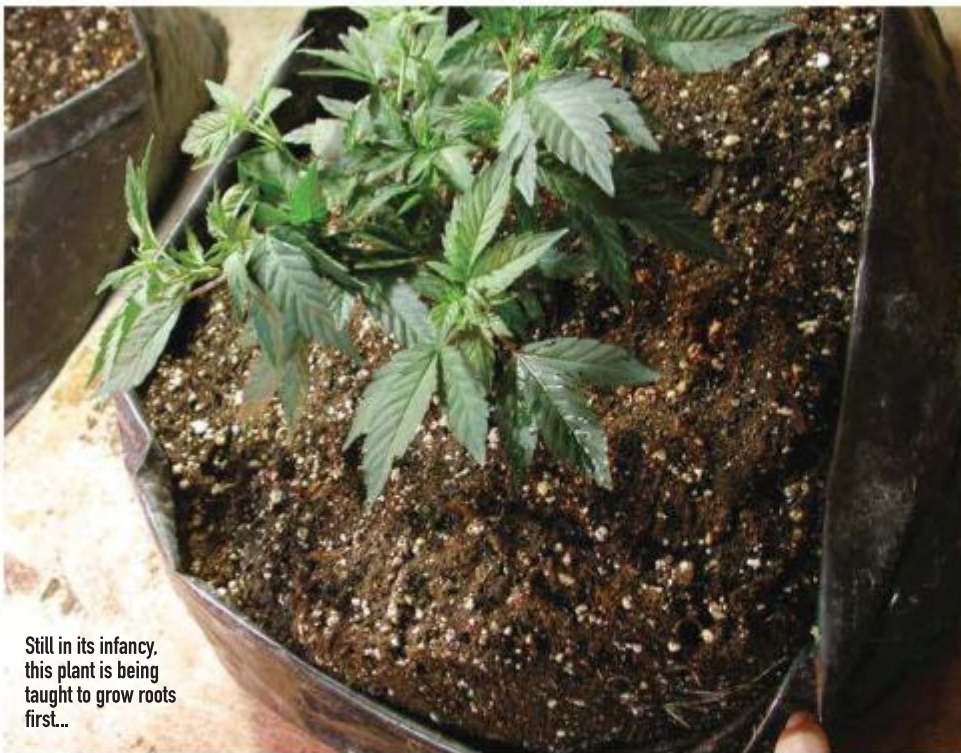
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... take notice at its roots already reaching the far end of its bag.

THE ROOT ZONE

In order to grow large indoor plants, it's essential to understand the processes that occur within the root zone as well as the role that roots play in a plant's development. Everything that occurs in the root zone is chemical: The roots grow billions of tiny, highly sensitive hairs that absorb moisture and minerals on a molecular level. This is how a plant gets 95 percent of its water and nutrients; therefore, the root zone must be properly maintained.

After absorbing water and nutrients, roots send this food up through the stalk and stems for final processing. These ingredients are used within the leaves, in conjunction with sunlight, to create sugars that the plant will use as food. This process happens during photosynthesis, and once the sugars are created, all excess food is sent back down to the roots for storage. This is another major reason that a good root structure is integral for plant growth: The larger the root system, the more storage space the plant has for excess food. When extra energy is needed—for instance, during the flowering stage—the plant will have an extra supply to draw from, making yields and quality that much better.

For these reasons, plant yield is directly proportional to root size. However, when growing indoors, there are other important considerations that need to be factored in. Because many growrooms are limited by height restrictions, many indoor gardeners prefer to keep their plants short and stocky rather than tall and thin. There's another good reason for this: Shorter plants require much less energy for transporting water and nutrients throughout the plant. It's much easier for root systems to send water and nutrients up a short plant stalk than a tall one, and this saved energy can then be used by the plant in more vital processes, such as producing more resin or denser flowers.

So how do you grow a bigger root system while still keeping your plants squat? That's simple: Instead of growing plants out of a deep pot, grow them out of shallow beds that are wider laterally. Giving the root zone lots of horizontal space is just as effective in preventing root-bound plants, and it has an added benefit: It helps promote bushy plants by allowing branches to grow further outward rather than upward. Because plants have a natural tendency to grow out only as far as their root-zone diameter underground, raising your plants in wide, shallow beds of medium is an excellent way to achieve short, bush-like growth indoors.

Perhaps one of the best methods for creating this type of root system is by using grow bags instead of pots. Grow bags come in a variety of sizes and can easily be adjusted to a grower's desired root-zone parameters. Large grow bags (five to 10 gallons) can be rolled down to create shallow beds, while also allowing a fairly wide root system to develop. The shallow bags create a shallow root depth, which signals the plant to remain short, while the long width of the root zone signals the branches to grow farther outward.

Still in its infancy, this plant is being taught to grow roots first...

ALL ABOUT AUXINS

Auxins are complex plant hormones that aid in the development of buds and leaves. Auxins can stimulate plant cells to grow longer, especially in areas of high auxin concentration like the tips of roots and shoots.

However, auxins also have the ability to inhibit growth on the lower or shorter shoots nearby. This is known as *apical dominance*. Once the top shoot begins growing up and away from the lower shoots—or if the terminal bud is removed altogether—these effects are lessened and the shorter shoots begin growing again.

Additionally, when a plant's dominant shoot is pinched off, the auxins left over in the shoot (if any) and those headed toward it are redistributed to the surrounding shoots, forcing them to grow stronger. This effect is also seen when FIM-ing, supercropping or bending the top shoots.



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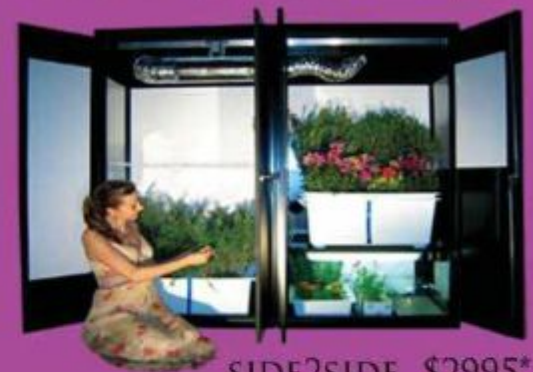
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Latticework for trellising begins at an early age.



To supercrop, firmly bend the top shoot to a 90 degree angle.



Bamboo sticks are used here as a support trellis.



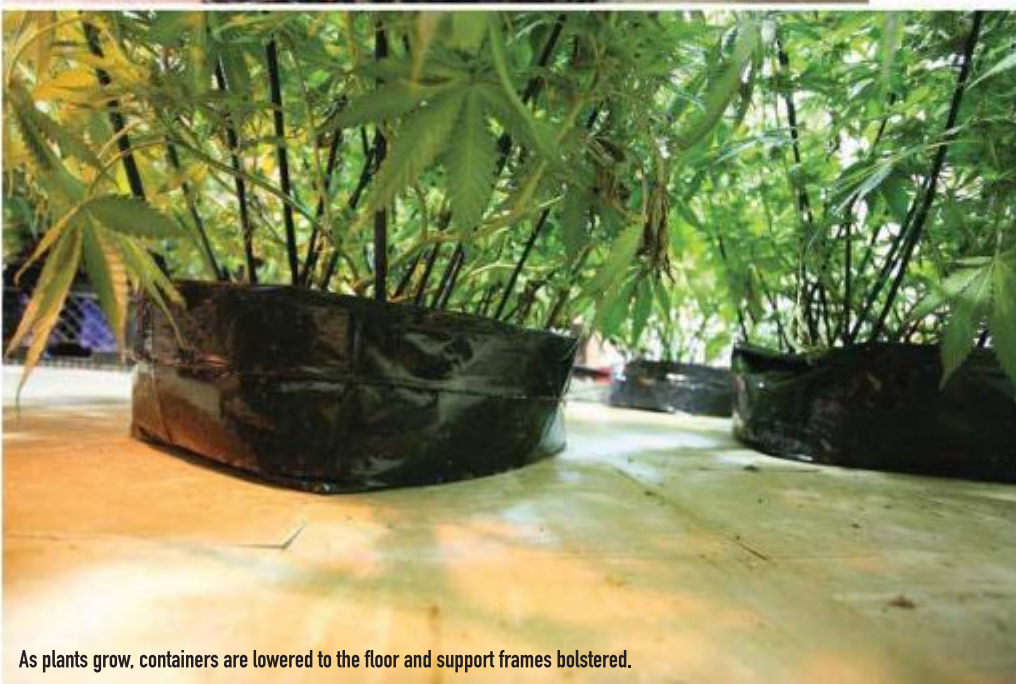
An example of a FIMed top shoot.

THE ART OF T'S: TOPPING AND TRELLISING

Of course, there's more to growing large, productive plants indoors than just the size of your garden bed. In conjunction with creating a proper root zone, smart indoor gardeners will also incorporate the art of "tying off" or *trellising*. A trellis is a framework or lattice used as a support for growing plants. The trellis is usually constructed of crossed strips of wood or bamboo that are anchored in the garden bed and form a vertical and lateral support frame on which a plant can extend and grow.

The goal of this technique is to enlarge each plant's canopy size while also creating numerous top shoots, or colas, that can help produce larger yields. It also helps to spread out the branches of each plant, allowing light to better penetrate the canopy and aid lower buds in their development.

Two additional techniques should be incorporated into this system to encourage the plant to bush. The first is known by a variety of names; *topping*, *pinching off* and *FIM-ing* are all terms for a method that stimulates shorter growth and causes a plant's middle



As plants grow, containers are lowered to the floor and support frames bolstered.

to top shoots to grow bigger and stronger. Though each one differs slightly in application, their effects are basically the same. Topping, pinching off or FIM-ing involves cutting or pinching off a plant's upper or top shoot (branch tip) from the main stem. This will send a signal to the rest of the plant to begin growing out more at the lower internodes, which in turn creates more top or main flowers. (See the sidebar on plant hormones for a more detailed account of why this occurs.)

To top or pinch off the plant's main branch tip, snip it off just below the last set of leaves. To FIM a plant's top, cut the tip slightly higher, leaving about 20 percent of frayed leaf. The FIM technique is said to produce or enhance many more lower offshoots than standard topping, which usually only bolsters the two lower branches just below the cut. When many tops are pinched back or FIM-ed, extensive growth can be seen. Thus, it's important to remember that this needs to be done very early in the plant's life, and done continually as clones or seedlings grow throughout their vegetative stage.



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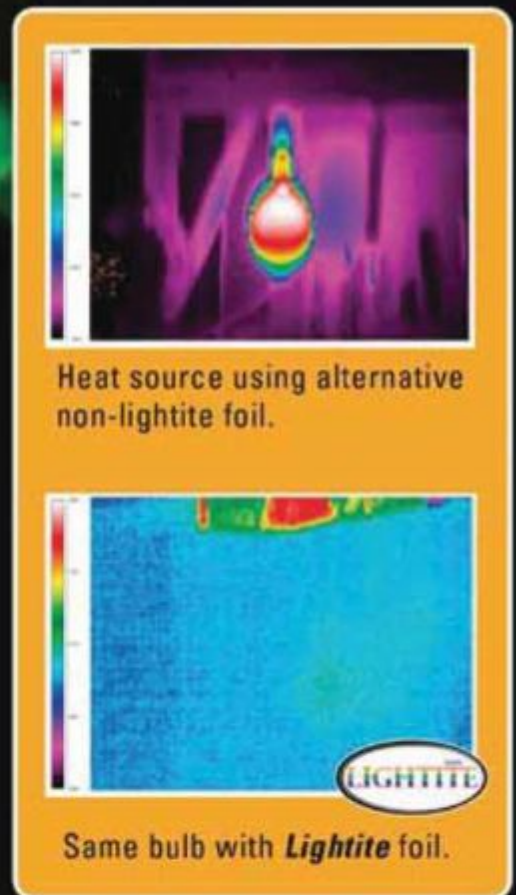
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Large harvests can be expected when utilizing these few simple techniques to increase yields.

A second technique for this system of growing is called *supercropping* or bending plants. This achieves a similar outcome by bending the top or main shoot of a plant at an early point in its vegetative growth. The bend needs to be severe and permanent, but still done without severing the shoot completely. Growers bend or “roll over” the stem with their fingers to create a 90-degree angle at the top of the plant that will eventually harden off. This also encourages vigorous growth in the branches below by affecting the flow of hormones throughout the plant (again, see the sidebar for details).

As plants grow throughout their vegetative stage and into the flowering stage, the vigorous growth of the top and side shoots resulting from these topping techniques will need to be controlled. This is where trellising comes into play. A week or two after transplanting clones or seedlings, some sort of

trellis or latticework should be constructed at each plant site. Once the plants are topped, the branch arms will begin jutting out at all angles searching for light. These shoots need to be trained by loosely tying them to a structure or framework that encircles the plant. These frames can be made out of any sterile, sturdy material and should be anchored in each plant’s container, near the edges so as not to interfere with the root system.

The aim for indoor gardeners is to spread out the top and side branches by pulling them apart and attaching them to the trellis, giving them their own pathways to grow up toward the light. Trellises also serve as much-needed support for the plant during the flowering stage, when the plant needs to sustain the burgeoning weight of its buds. Having this support also enables the plant to use less energy of its own, thereby helping to increase yields when that energy is diverted into flower (and resin) production.

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LIGHTING AND INTERNODE LENGTHS

One last facet of maximizing indoor yields is lighting, including the distance of lights from the garden canopy. As mentioned earlier, re-creating nature's conditions is the goal for indoor growers, and this applies to light as well. Unfortunately, nothing manmade can equal the power and efficiency of the sun, but that doesn't mean we can't come close.

For starters, we need to understand the value of spectrum. Just as the sun offers plants a full spectrum of light, so too should our indoor lights. Good spectrum allows plants to grow as efficiently as possible.

Currently, some of the best lighting available to growers are high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps with either high-pressure sodium (HPS) or metal halide (MH) bulbs. HIDs provide strong illumination that can penetrate canopies and deliver more light to the middle tier of a garden. However, when it comes to spectrum, the artificial light from HPS and MH bulbs can still be improved on; this is why newer bulb products specifically tailored to individual frequencies (or wavelengths) are becoming more and more popular with indoor growers. These bulbs can be used with specialized light-delivery systems (as shown in the photographs) that not only maximize light distribution but also keep heat down by rotating the bulbs at a quicker speed than standard light movers. When two or more of these bulbs are combined in a lighting system, an even fuller spectrum can be achieved. (For more info, visit SunPulseLamps.com.) But keep in mind that some of the most alluring products on the market today—particularly LED lights, which are great for

Low lighting creates lush garden canopies and optimal yields.



cutting down on power consumption and heat byproduct—fall short when it comes to creating large yields and growing healthy plants.

Once you have the proper lighting and spectrum to allow your plants to grow as efficiently as possible, the question becomes how best to position your lamps. They need to be as close to the plants as possible, but without creating heat burn; anything within 1 foot (12 inches) of the garden canopy is ideal. However, growers must use caution in determining the heat output of their lights—too much heat is very bad for plants, and so is letting any of the plant tops actually touch the lamps. Most indoor growers generally use some form of light-cooling system.

Keeping the lamps close is important because it helps to shorten *internode lengths*—the distance between one leaf shoot and the next—on the plants. Keeping internode lengths shorter results in a more compact plant with a fuller shape, which

is essential when growing squat, bushy cannabis. Keeping internode lengths at a minimum also improves yields, as shorter plants will use less energy to transport food and water throughout their system. As mentioned earlier, all of this saved energy will then be stored in the roots and used later during the flowering stage.

During the vegetative stage, even in nurseries where clones and seedlings are being raised, indoor growers should opt for whiter light, which helps to keep internode lengths short and pre-

vents young plants from stretching. MH and even fluorescent bulbs are excellent for helping to maintain shorter plants; HPS lights have more red spectrum in them, which is why they're primarily used for the flowering stage. LED lamps that use only red and blue frequencies are *not* recommended because too much red spectrum will activate the plant's "far red" phytochrome, which sends "stretch" signals to internode cells, causing the plant to grow taller.

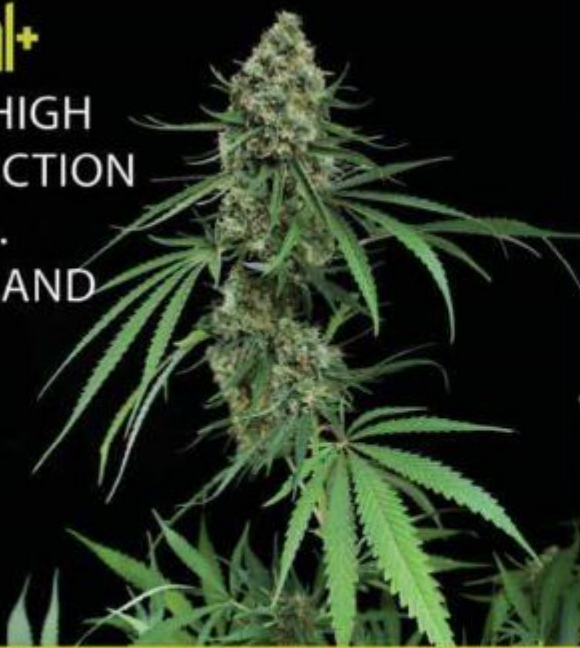
With the right kind of lighting and the proper positioning of their lamps, indoor growers can keep their plants growing vigorously without bursting through the ceiling. Using a trellis to support them and train their branches as they get larger will give them proper room for growth and light consumption, which in turn will help to increase yields while still keeping the plants healthy and happy—and that, in the end, makes for healthy and happy growers and patients as well. ✨

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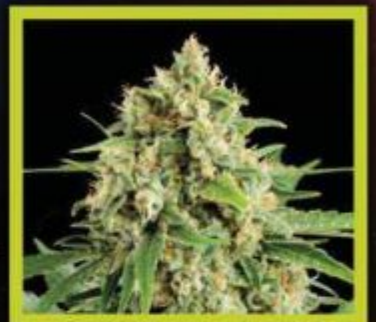
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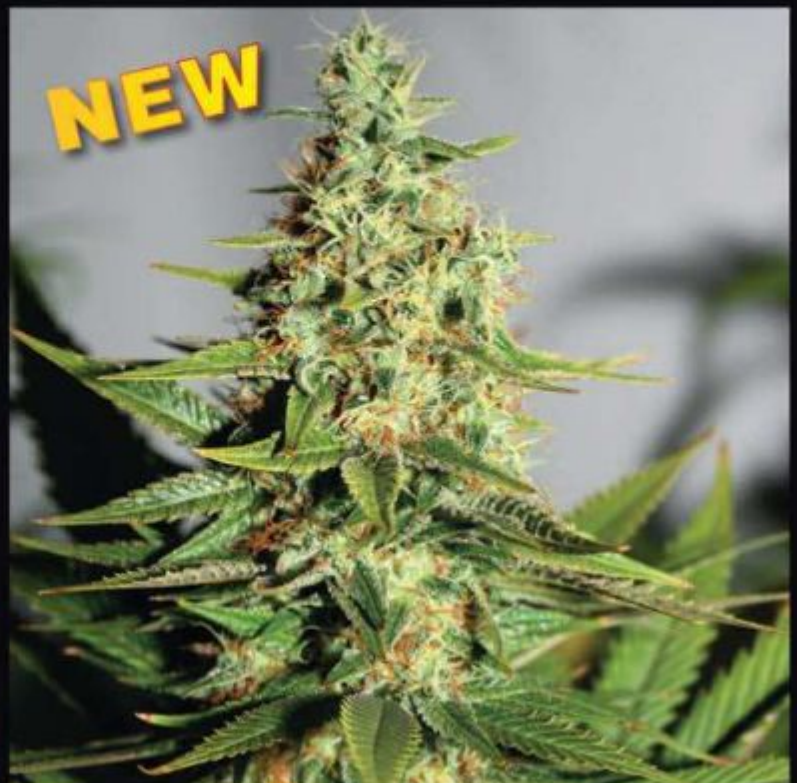
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ROMULAN

NEXT GENERATION SEED COMPANY

British Columbia long ago established itself as Canada's pot-paradise province, and the strain called Romulan led the way. First brought into the Vancouver Island area by Romulan Joe (a.k.a. Mendocino Joe) back in the '70s, the strain was a favorite with local breeders, who worked with the rare clones in order to select for and isolate the classic "Rom" traits.

With a uniquely pungent and piney odor and peppery flavor, Romulan represents the finest in *indica*-dominant genetics. These buds are prized by medicinal patients for their pain-relieving properties and devastatingly powerful "couch-lock" high.

Cultivators love *indicas* for their growth patterns, and Romulan exhibits all of the classics, staying short and stocky, with a good amount of branching and less than a foot of "stretch" after flowering is induced. Boasting purple stems topped with wide, dark green fan leaves, Romulan packs on weight quickly, even under harsh conditions. She will typically turn a beautiful blue tint while ripening, especially in the cold of a Canadian autumn.

Lineage: Romulan clone x White Rhino back-crossed

Flowering time: 8 weeks

Contact: Greenlife Seeds, greenlifeseeds.com

LOWRYDER

JOINT DOCTOR

This is the strain that changed everything. The first commercially available auto-flowering cannabis variety rocked the ganja-growing world by eliminating the vegetative stage of growth altogether.

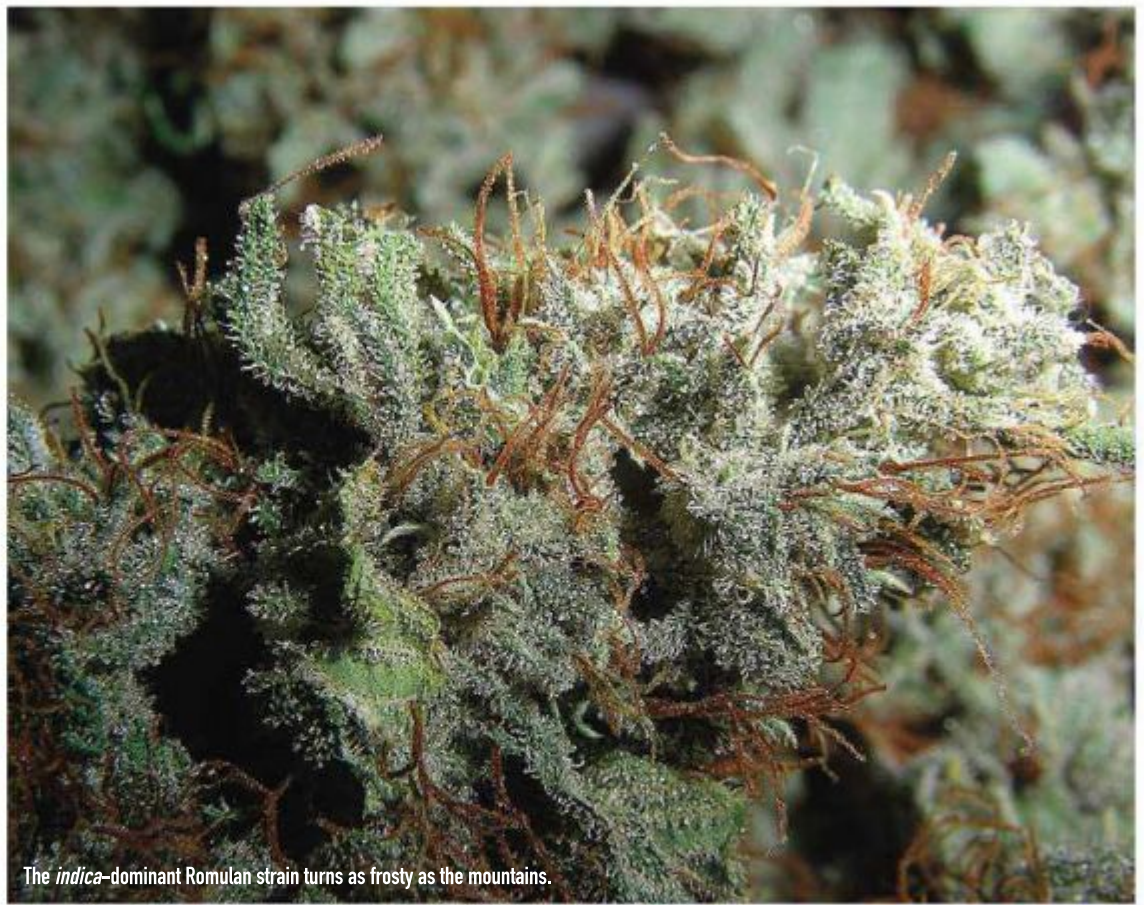
Lowryder seedlings begin flowering immediately after establishing their first few sets of leaves no matter what the light cycle, indoors or out. This allows the outdoor guerrilla farmer to finish short, stocky spears during short seasons and harvest before the choppers even get started—year round in some climates! (In Spain, Joint Doctor's new feminized auto-flowering plants are all the rage.)

With its incredibly short life cycle (eight weeks from seed to bud) and discreet profile, the Lowryder's appeal for growers is easy to see. Smokers will appreciate the added potency that's been bred into the newer versions such as Diesel Ryder, and breeders will appreciate the opportunity to experiment with auto-flowering as well.

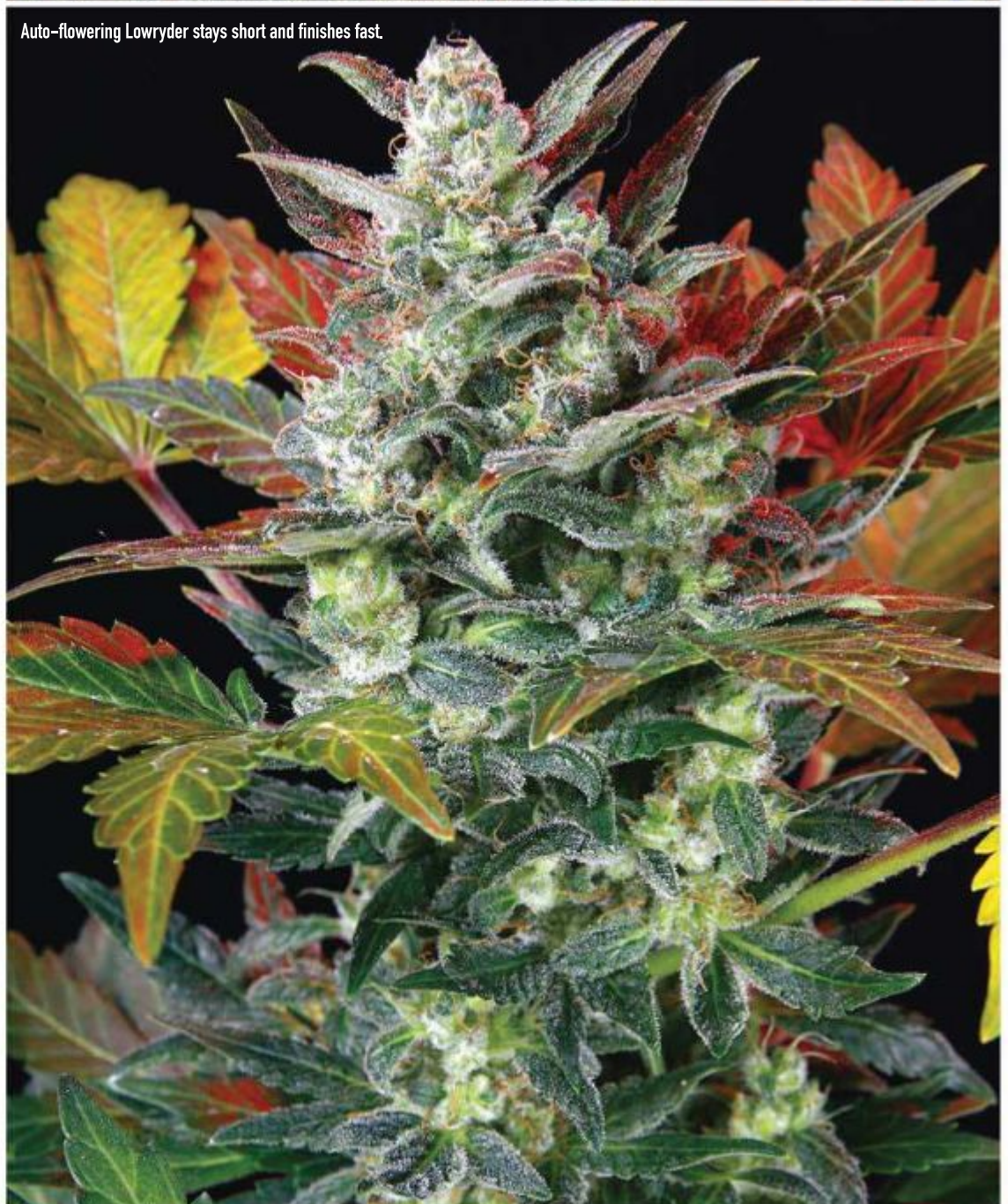
Lineage: William's Wonder or Northern Lights #2 x a "Mexican ruderalis" cross

Flowering time: 6 weeks

Contact: Joint Doctor, lowryder.co.uk



The *indica*-dominant Romulan strain turns as frosty as the mountains.



Auto-flowering Lowryder stays short and finishes fast.



The seductive aroma and pleasant buzz make Island Sweet Skunk a BC favorite.



Island Sweet Skunk grows in long candy-coated spears.

ISLAND SWEET SKUNK

NEXT GENERATION SEED COMPANY

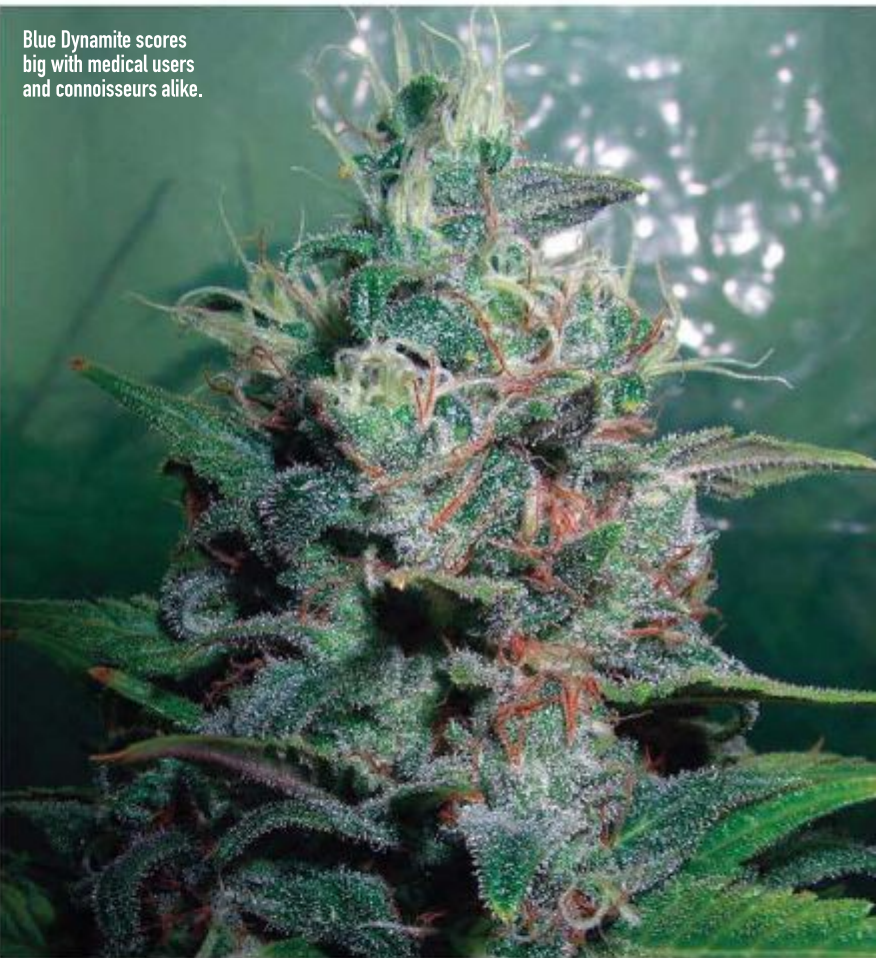
Grown out on Vancouver Island for decades, this *sativa*-dominant sensi staple continues to wow generation after generation of discerning Canadian tokers. The ISS's unique flavor and odor—sugary sweet, with a scent that includes undertones of cedar and cinnamon—keep this tasty treat on the marijuana map despite her tendency to stretch during growth. The high can only be described as “cerebral” and “uplifting”—perfect for inspiration during long winter nights.

When cultivated properly, Island Sweet Skunk yields heavy harvests of trichome-coated, bright orange tops. She's a heavy feeder early in life, but growers should cut back on the nutrients after a month or so. Let the stretch work for you by implementing a branch-training regimen, or use a Screen of Green (ScrOG) system to spread the plant out into the available light. Be sure to let ISS flower for the full distance to get the most essential-oil production.

Lineage: Sweet Pink Grapefruit x Big Skunk #1

Flowering time: 9 weeks

Contact: Greenlife Seeds, greenlifeseeds.com



Blue Dynamite scores big with medical users and connoisseurs alike.

BLUE DYNAMITE

NEXT GENERATION SEED COMPANY

HIGH TIMES Top 10 Strain, 2007

As much as we love *sativas*, we can't forget about those dense and potent *indicas*. Growers in particular love to produce these branchy and fast-growing strains with huge yields and plenty of sticky resin. Jay from Next Generation Seed Company scored his first-ever Top 10 strain with the powerful *indica* Blue Dynamite, a wonderful F1 hybrid that's perfect for beginners and pot professionals alike.

Jay describes the Blue Dynamite as “a perfect strain for making hash, with amazing taste right down the joint to the end of the roach.” Jay created Blue Dynamite by crossing his male Avalon strain (Blueberry x Afghani) with his Dynamite strain (the famous Grapefruit clone from British Columbia). It's a tasty and productive *indica* that turns hues of blue and purple toward the end of flowering.

Lineage: Dynamite x Avalon

Flowering time: 6 to 7 weeks

Contact: Green Life Seeds, Greenlifeseeds.com

BLUEBERRY

DJ SHORT

DJ Short created the original Blueberry in an attempt to tame the wily "Juicy Fruit" Highland Thai and his own Purple Thai, while still retaining some of their legendary euphoric highs and fruity flavors. After backcrossing with an Afghani *Indica* male and making careful selections over time, the Blueberry (as well as a whole incredible line of relatives) emerged as a great find for connoisseurs and growers alike. The potency, odor and taste rival the world's finest varieties.

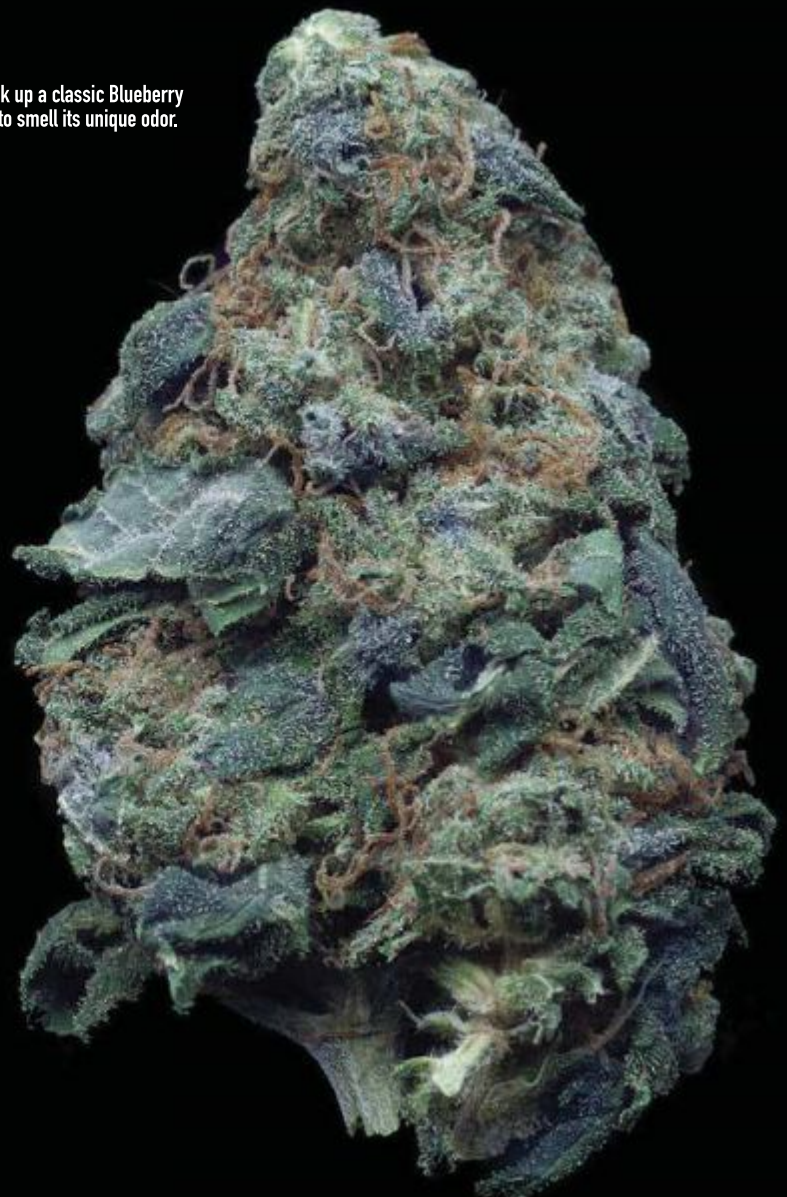
The Blueberry stays short and dense, so be sure to vegetate the plants out a bit before inducing flowering. Fan leaves will turn all kinds of beautiful fall colors, and the buds will be tinged with lavender to darker blue pigments. This strain is perfect for the "long cure"—tightly sealed and stored in jars for six months or more before smoking, Blueberry ripens to a very intoxicating and complicated profile over time.

Lineage: Highland Thai or Purple Thai x Afghani Indica

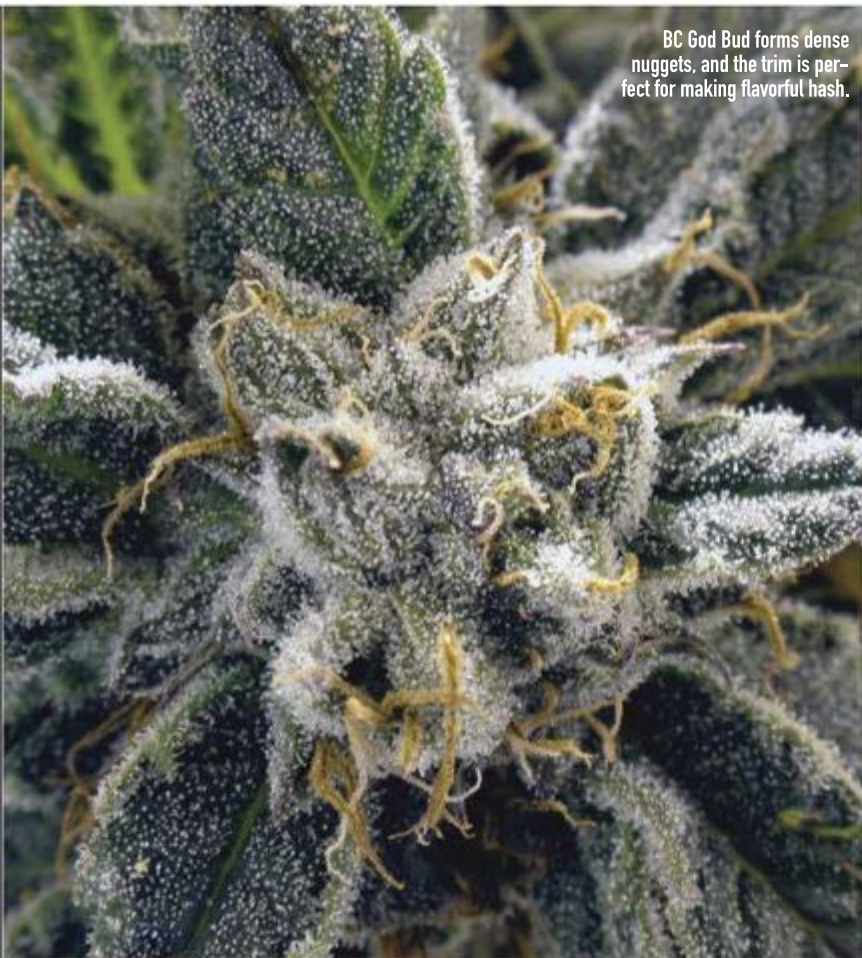
Flowering time: 6.5 to 7.5 weeks

Contact: Legends Seeds, legendsseeds.com

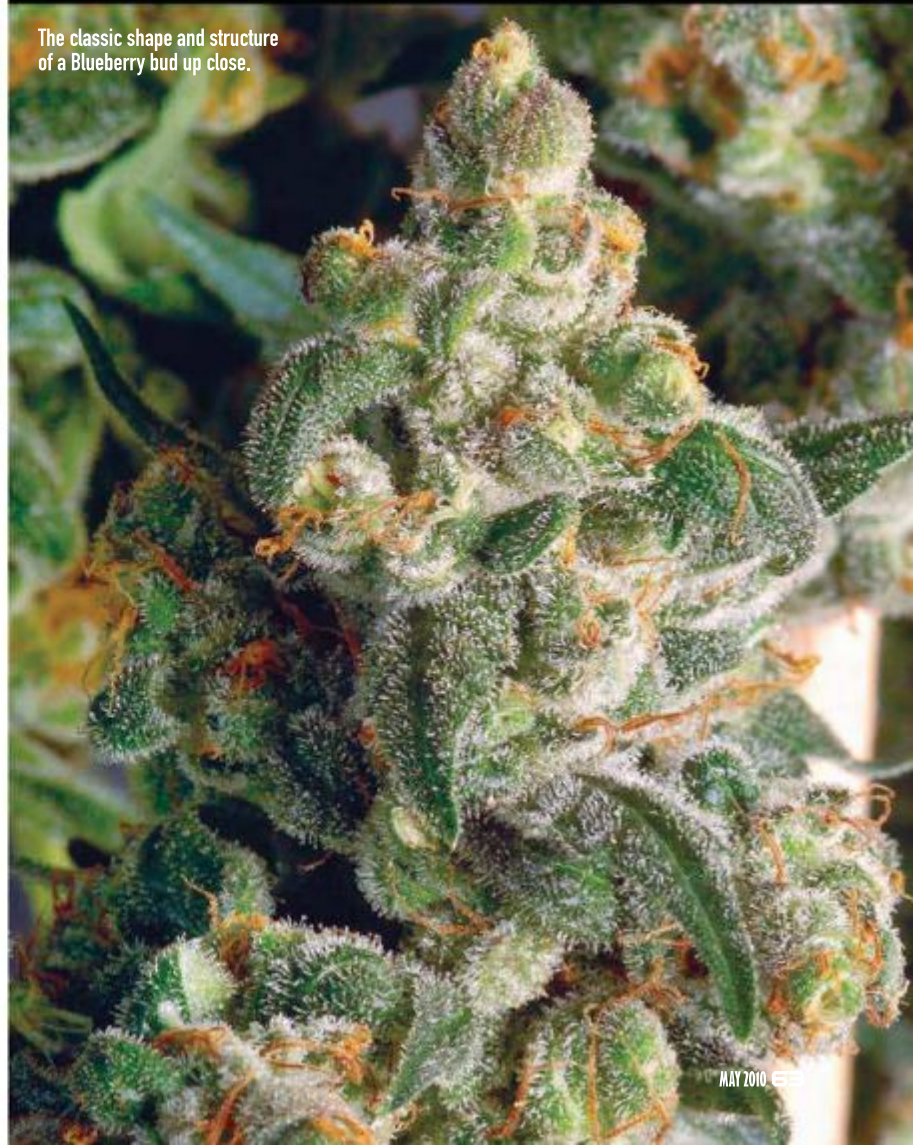
Break up a classic Blueberry bud to smell its unique odor.



BC God Bud forms dense nuggets, and the trim is perfect for making flavorful hash.



The classic shape and structure of a Blueberry bud up close.



BC GOD BUD

BC BUD DEPOT

1st Place, 2004 HIGH TIMES *Indica* Cup

HIGH TIMES Top 10 Strain, 2005

Commercial growers prize *indica* varieties for their potency and big yields, but God Bud also has great flavor and aroma. Since winning the Best *Indica*-Seed Company award at the 2004 Cannabis Cup this frosty selection, well-known in Vancouver, is getting its proper respect worldwide. The dense, crystal-coated BC God Bud has serious bag appeal and packs quite a punch.

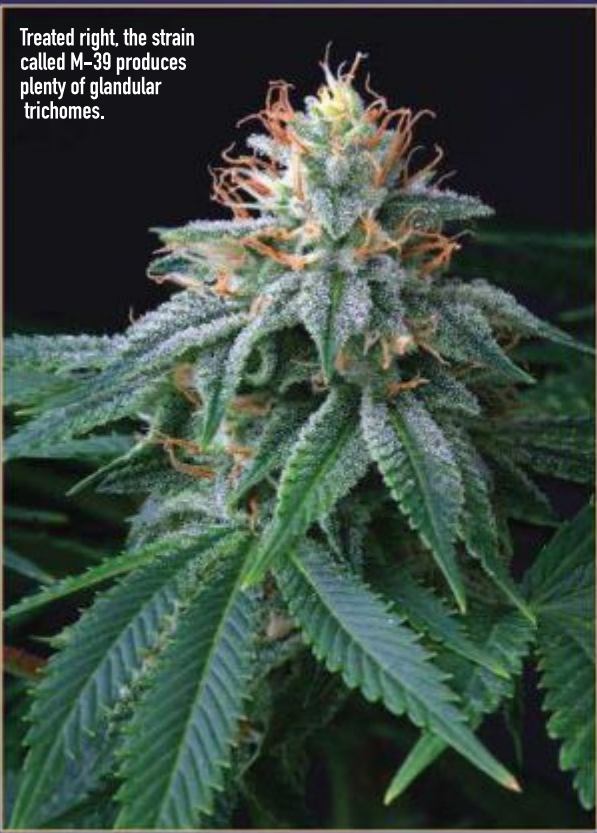
Matt, the breeder for BC Bud Depot, says: "She's a heavy feeder and can take longer to clone, but once you get it right, there's no stopping her. Yields typically between 2 to 4 ounces per plant in indoor-production setups, and up to 3 pounds per plant outdoors in southern climates. From her density and stickiness to her aroma, taste and medicinal qualities, the God Bud is a connoisseur-grade *indica* that will leave everyone wishing for your stash." I couldn't have put it better myself.

Lineage: God x Hawaiian x Purple Indica

Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks

Contact: BC Bud Depot, bcbudonline.com

Treated right, the strain called M-39 produces plenty of glandular trichomes.



Long densely-structured colas are a feature of the M-39.

M-39

SUPER SATIVA SEED CLUB (SSSC)

Released in bean form years ago by one of the oldest seed banks in Holland (now long defunct), the M-39 was touted as a production plant extraordinaire from the very beginning. Heavyweight *indica*-dominant genetics and true ease of growth made this hardy strain a staple for Canadian growers from Quebec to Ontario and beyond.

M-39 clones easily, grows incredibly quickly and with good branching, and finishes with an easy-to-trim profile—all traits that appeal to Canadian cash-croppers from coast to coast. Discreet, low to the ground and fast to finish, M-39 also grows perfectly through the shorter seasons and harsher conditions of northern territories.

But beware of imitations! The buds known as “Beast-ers” are often poorly grown-out versions of M-39 or even pretenders mislabeled as M-39. The real deal has that old-school flavor and clean high familiar to growers and tokers of a certain age.

Lineage: Skunk #1 x Northern Lights #5 (a.k.a. Basic #5)

Flowering time: 8 weeks

Contact: clone only



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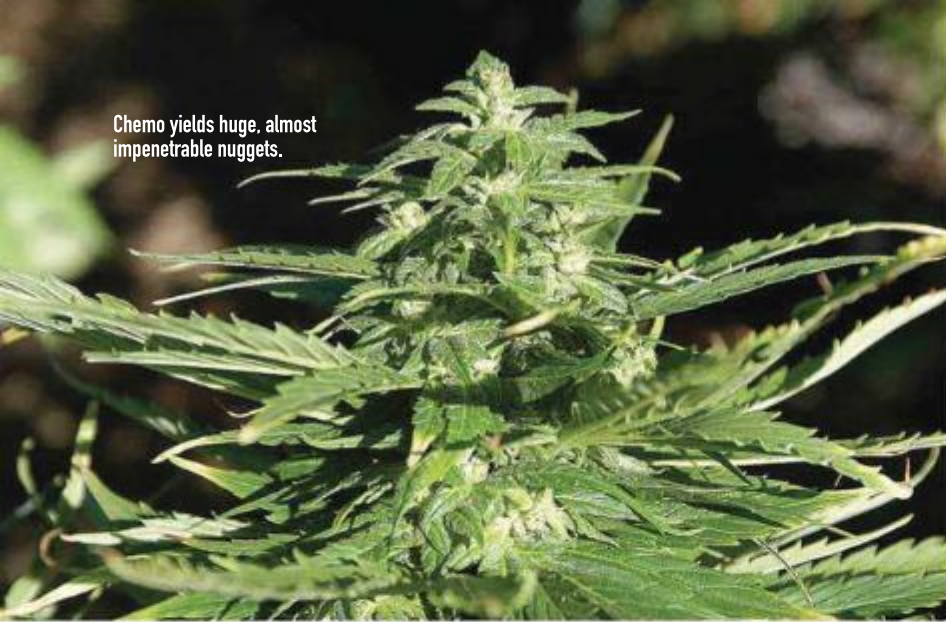
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Chemo yields huge, almost impenetrable nuggets.

CHEMO

DR. GREENTHUMB

Yet another potent *indica* from the land of shorter growing seasons, the Chemo earned its name with a powerful narcotic stone preferred by the medicinal community for pain relief and nausea. Its unique, earthy flavor envelops the mouth, and the hashy odor of a hit lingers in the air.

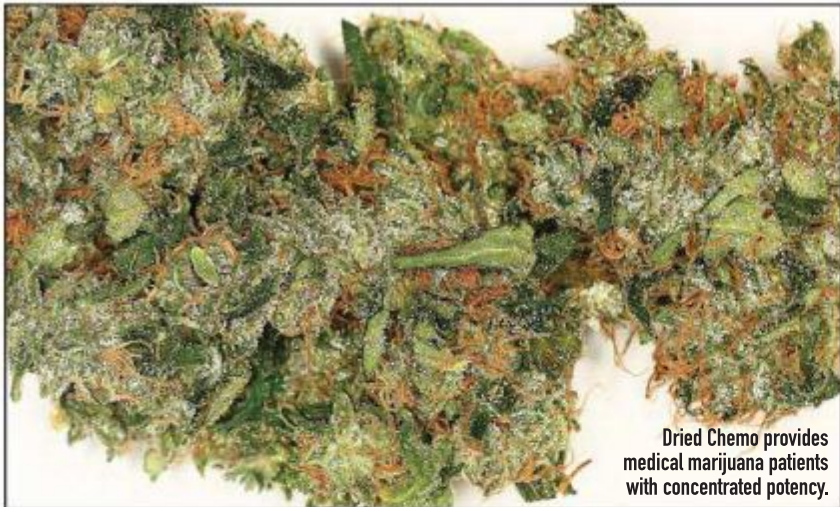
When growing, Chemo stays true to its *indica* heritage—feeding heavily, packing on weight quickly and keeping a low profile. The plants smell skunky throughout both the vegetative and flowering stages, and yields are typically spectacular.

Freshly harvested Chemo colas need plenty of elbow room while drying to ensure better evaporation of moisture from within. Dr. Greenthumb, boasting over 25 years of growing and breeding experience in eastern Canada, tells me: “Year in and year out, people who have tried Chemo at its best say they’ve never encountered anything as good in an *indica*.”

Lineage: Chemo-clone backcross

Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks

Contact: Dr. Greenthumb, drgreenthumb.com



Dried Chemo provides medical marijuana patients with concentrated potency.

THE PURPS

BC BUD DEPOT

3rd Place, 2007 *Sativa* Cup

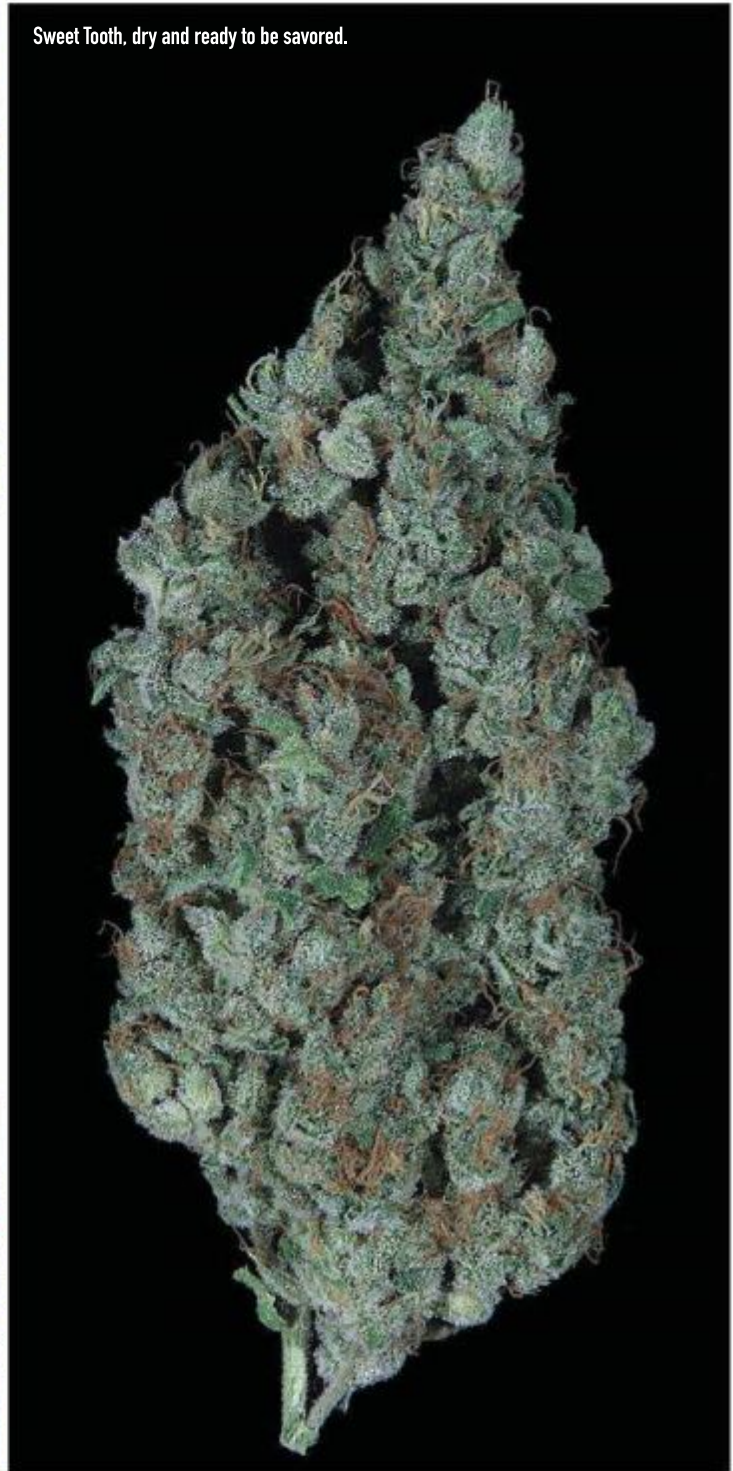
HIGH TIMES Top 10 Strain, 2007

At the 2004 HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup, the BC Bud Depot guys were gifted the legendary Mendo Purps strain in clone form. Upon returning to Canada, they immediately began working to release stable seeds of this original and fantastic-tasting clone-only variety. The grape-candy flavor and deep purple color of the Purps are accentuated in this seed release to properly reflect its original heritage as one of California’s most unique contributions to the cannabis gene pool.

The Purps will yield copious dark nuggets with tremendous bag appeal and an uplifting high that will have you begging for more of Mendocino’s finest (by way of British Columbia). Joints of the Purps exhibit an almost impossibly candied flavor all the way down to the roach. Dry tokes reveal notes of black cherry, currant and chamomile. BC Bud Depot strikes again with boutique pot for the true aficionado.

Flowering time: 8 weeks

Contact: BC Bud Depot, bcbudonline.com



Sweet Tooth, dry and ready to be savored.

SWEET TOOTH

SPICE OF LIFE

Breeder Steve released Sweet Tooth in the mid-1990s to immediate fanfare from his pot-producing peers. Connoisseur cultivators cheered the arrival of a sweet-tasting, *indica*-dominant sinsemilla specimen with a seductively “uplifting” high. Striking the perfect balance between flavor, potency and production, this lung-tickler quickly became a keeper strain in cannabis mother-plant quivers from coast to coast.

Sweet Tooth produces fat, lime-green buds with pink hairs and plenty of sticky resins. Grind some up, or take a dry toke on a joint, and you’ll immediately detect the many tiers of cannabinoid and terpene complexity. Scents of citrus rinds, blueberries and watermelon bubblegum reveal the many unique essential oils that make Sweet Tooth especially ideal for hash.

Sometimes, Sweet Tooth produces buds so dense that mold and rot can be a problem in humid conditions. The newer backcrossed ST hybrids available from Legends Seeds prove more resistant—but always put an emphasis on ventilation indoors, especially with chunky strains.

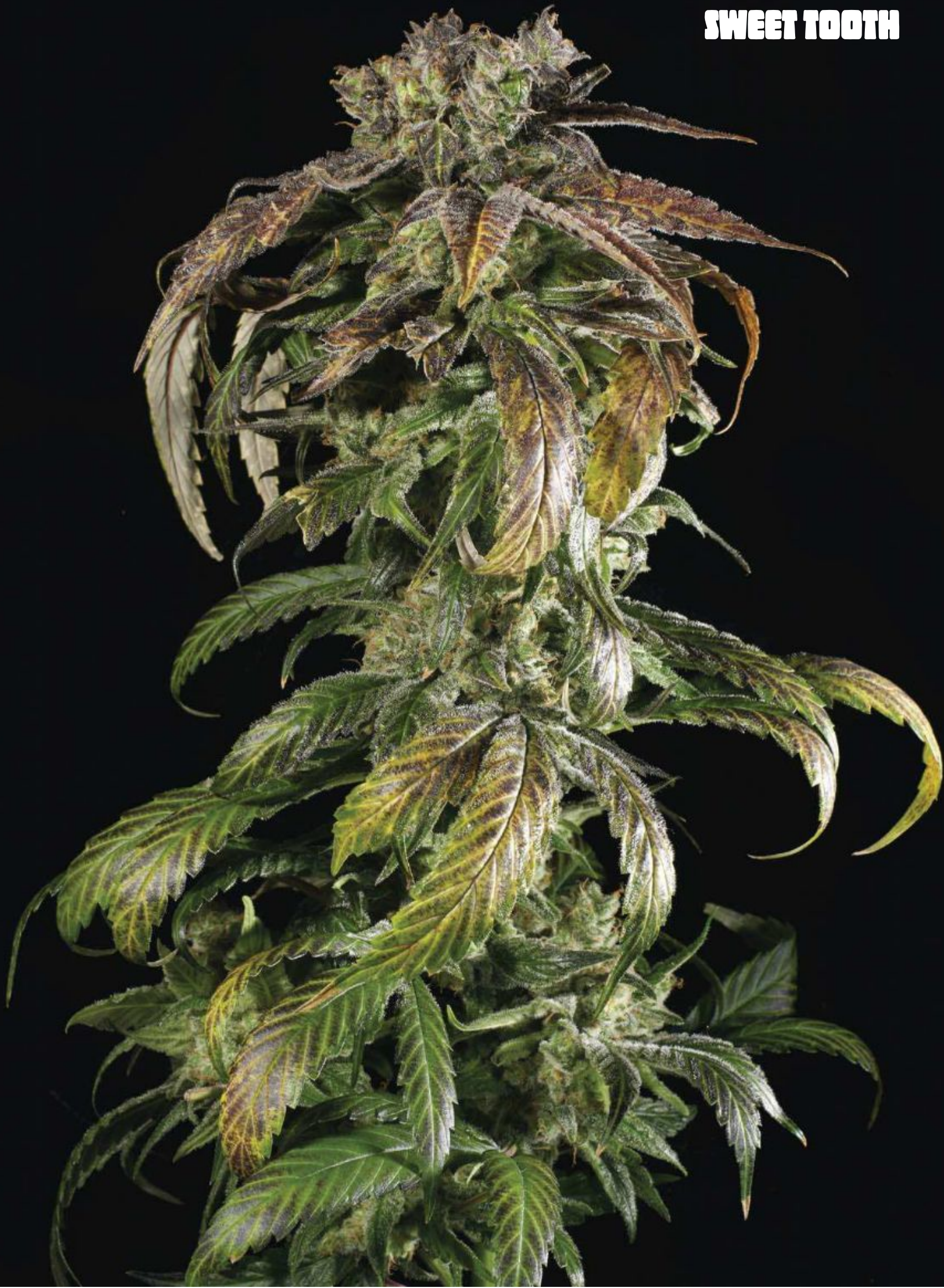
Lineage: DJ Short’s Blueberry x Sweet Pink Grapefruit

Flowering time: 8 weeks

Contact: Legends Seeds, legendsseeds.com

COURTESY OF DR. GREENTHUMB, HT ARCHIVE (2)

SWEET TOOTH





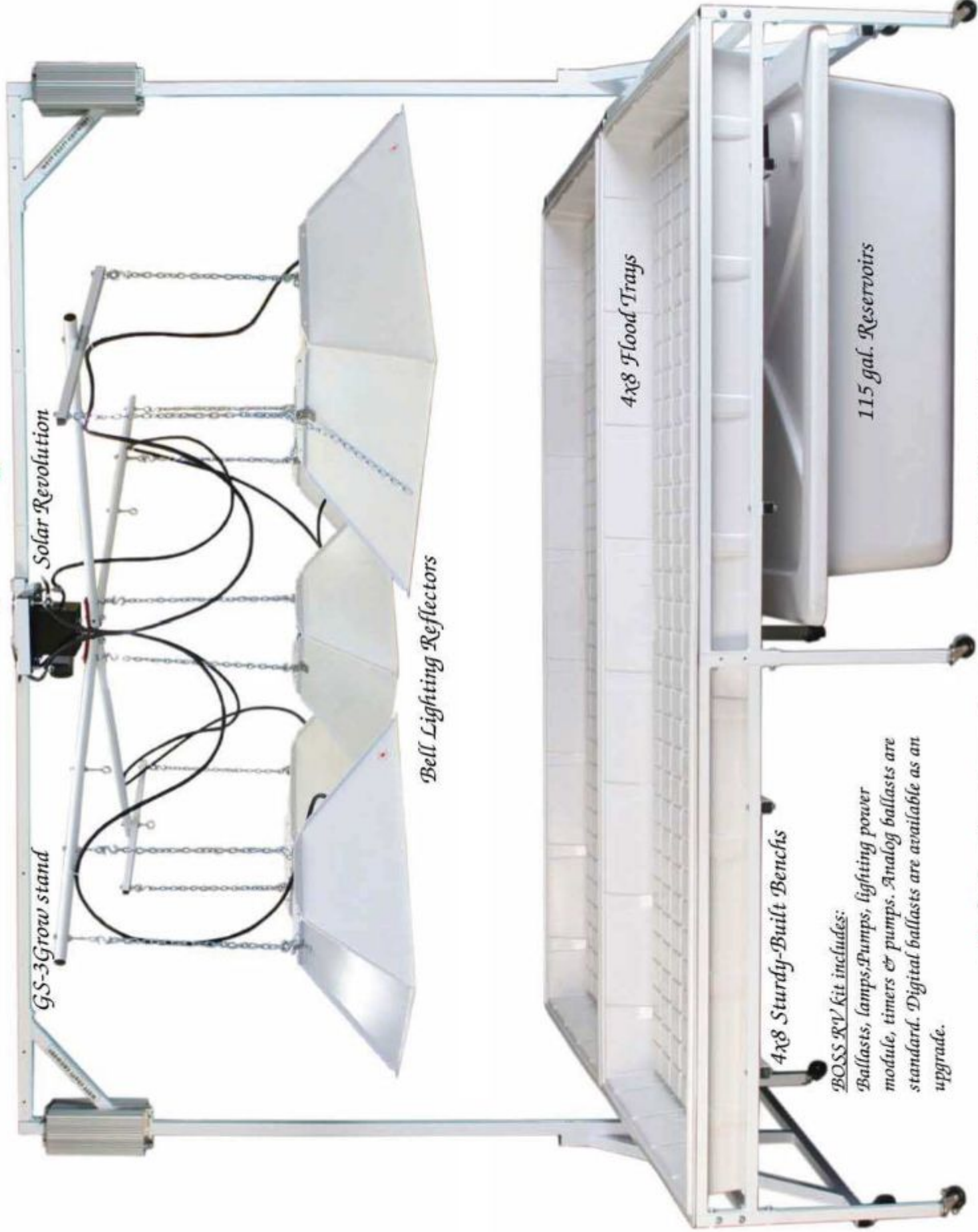
**THE PURPS
HIGHTIMES**



THE PURPS



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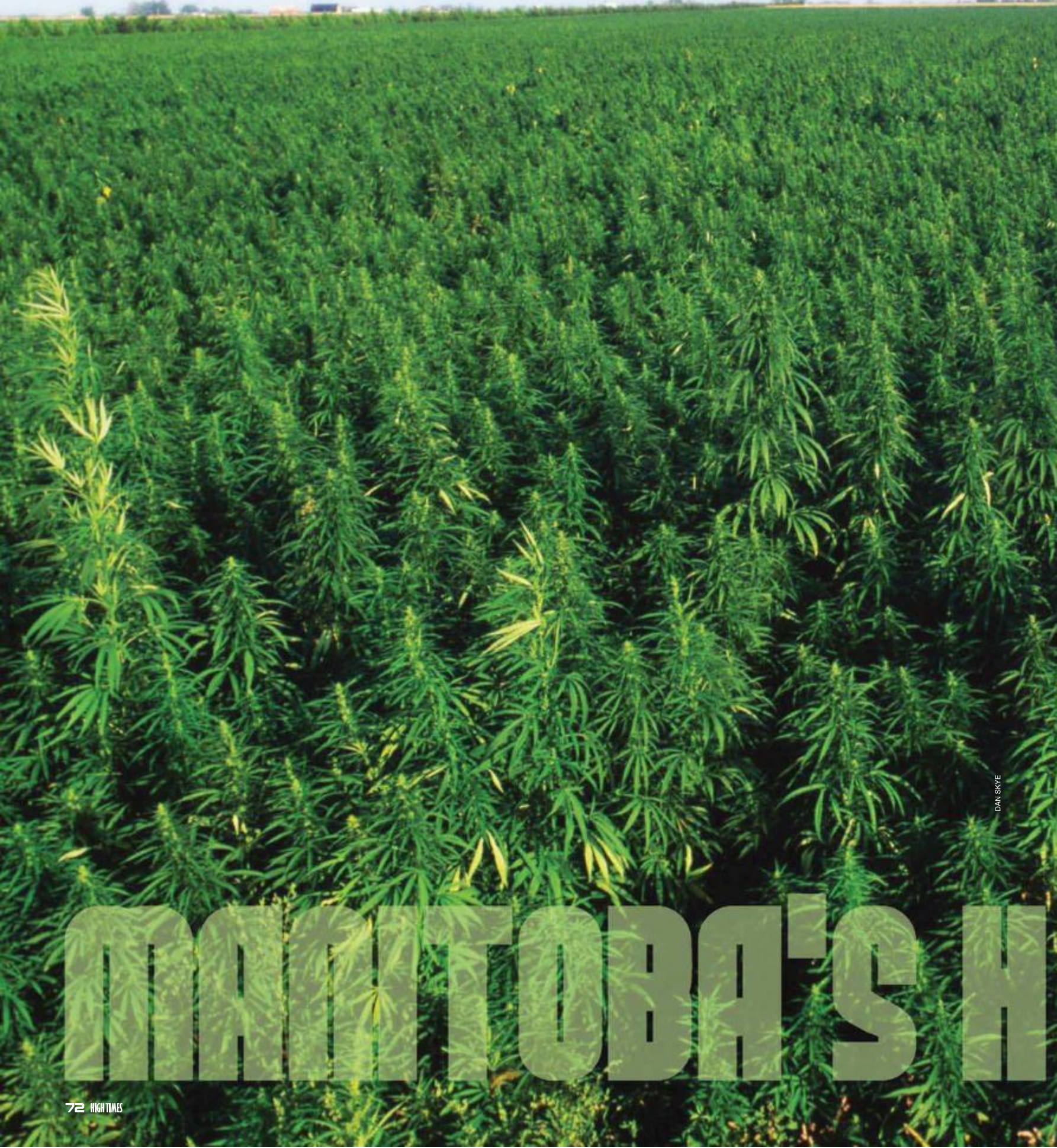
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How does a company cash in on a hemp harvest? By dedicating itself to producing the finest hemp foods on the market. That's the story of Manitoba Harvest, a Canadian company whose bottom line is as healthy as its products.

Acres of Canadian hemp flourish less than 100 miles from the US border.

By SAMANTHA NICHOLAS



DAN SKYE

MANITOBA'S H

Borders are just imaginary boundaries separating populations. Geography is often oblivious to the arbitrary lines of demarcation that governments impose.

The Canadian province of Manitoba, situated in the heart of North America, is generally flat and dotted with thousands of lakes. Grain crops thrive in southern Manitoba, nurtured by a climate that features sunny blue skies in the summer months and a long, frost-free growing season. The region of northern Minnesota and North Dakota, which shares a common border with Manitoba, is virtually the same—but borders do make a difference.

For over a decade, industrial hemp has flourished in Manitoba. Canada

lifted its restrictions on hemp cultivation in 1998, after the government determined that the crop was very different from marijuana and could actually boost the farming economy. (Although Canada deserves kudos for seeing the light, in all fairness, it was a decision long overdue: Hemp had been grown profitably in Canada for over 200 years, until the forces of cannabis prohibition interfered and outlawed the plant.) Ever since the reintroduction of Canadian hemp, farmers and hemp-processing companies have been reaping the rewards. Not so, south of the border—the anti-hemp drumbeat rolls on in the US, as demonstrated this past December.



HEMP MIRACLE



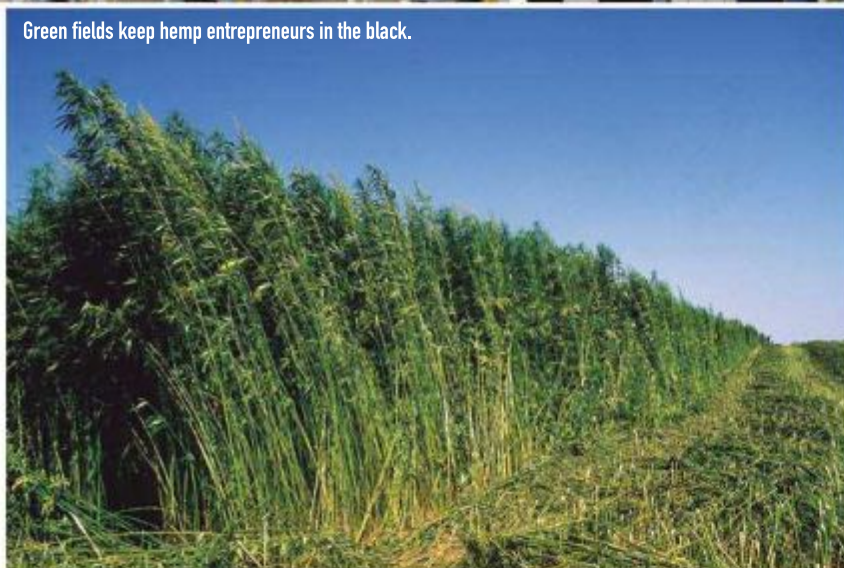
Manitoba Harvest founders Alex Chwaeiwsky, Mike Fata, and Martin Morvcik with their seed storage bins.

Once the crops are harvested, they're shipped to the company's state-of-the-art processing facility in Winnipeg.

US history since before the Revolutionary War—continues to be demonized by anti-drug forces.

Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, lies just 70 miles over the border. Here, Manitoba Harvest, the largest manufacturer of hemp foods in the world, is beginning its 12th year of operation. In business-speak, it's known as a "vertically integrated company" —one in which all stages of production, from the acquisition of raw materials to the retailing of the final product, are controlled by one business entity. Each year, Manitoba Harvest contracts approximately 30 farmers (who are also company shareholders) to grow hemp on over 70,000 acres of Canadian farmland. Once the crops are harvested, they're shipped to the company's state-of-the-art processing facility in Winnipeg to be transformed into an award-winning line of health foods. The company boasts 20,000

Green fields keep hemp entrepreneurs in the black.



Hemp butter is produced at Manitoba Harvest's processing facilities.

In 1998, North Dakota's governor signed legislation allowing local farmers to "plant, grow, harvest, possess, sell, and buy industrial hemp." In 2007, two farmers applied for a license to grow hemp, which was promptly issued by the state's agriculture commissioner. However, in the US, the DEA has the ultimate authority to approve the cultivation of hemp, and in the agency's entire history, it has done so exactly once—for a quarter-acre of research crops in Hawaii back in 1999. In this instance, after the paperwork was submitted to the DEA, the farmers' application for a legal permit was ignored. They had no choice but to file a lawsuit.

The result was just one more milestone on the path of Drug War ignorance. On December 22, a federal court rejected the notion that industrial hemp is not marijuana. The court ruled that the Controlled Substances Act makes no distinction between cannabis grown for use as a drug and that grown for industrial purposes, pointing out that the act defines marijuana to include *all* cannabis plants, regardless of THC concentration.

As always, shortsightedness reigns in the US. Elsewhere in the world, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Holland—as well as many countries of the former Soviet Union—have all been growing industrial-hemp crops since the early '90s. China, which never outlawed hemp in the first place, currently grows over half of the world's supply. In Canada, hundreds of farmers are harvesting the crop less than a hundred miles from the US border. But according to the US government, all of these countries are actually growing pot. And so, in the midst of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, a valuable crop—one that has figured prominently in



A warehouse filled with hemp meal awaits transformation into food.

square feet of manufacturing space and a work force of 37 employees. At last count, its sales are climbing beyond \$10 million annually.

Mike Fata is the company's CEO. He and his partners, Alex Chwaeiwsky and Martin Moravcik—along with activists across Canada—were instrumental in guiding the government toward the acceptance of industrial hemp. When the shackles were finally removed in 1998, Manitoba Harvest opened for business.

"Just because hemp was made legal didn't mean customers were rushing to buy our products," Fata says. "We needed to educate potential customers both about hemp and health. We also had to develop products that were attractive to consumers."

The fundamental distinction between industrial hemp and marijuana is the level of THC in the plant. As most pot smokers know, THC is the magic component in cannabis that allows you to get high. But industrial hemp is bred to contain negligible amounts of THC. Manitoba Harvest's products have THC levels of 0.0, so getting high or testing positive for pot in a urine test after consuming them is virtually impossible.



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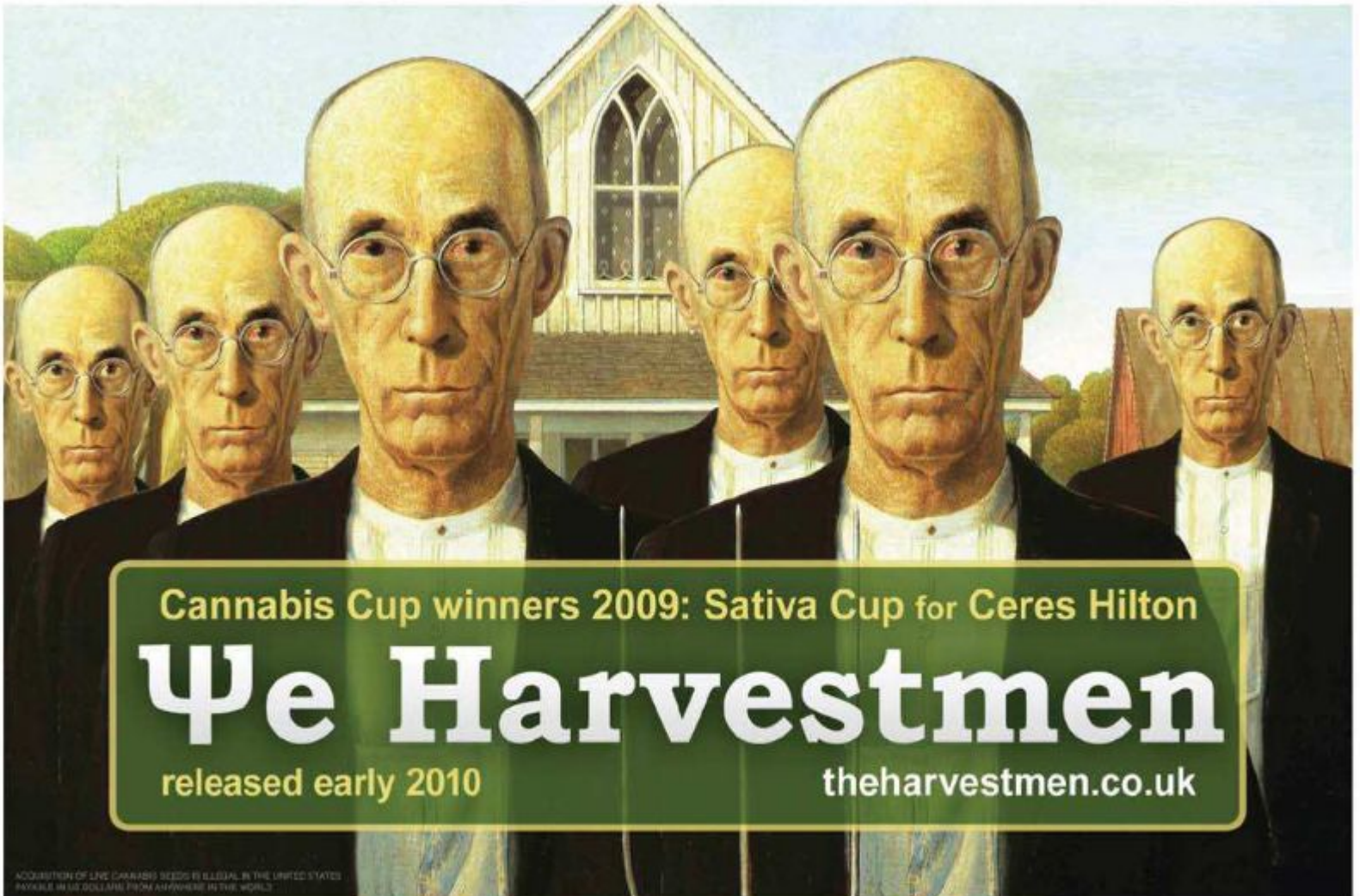
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HOW HEALTHY IS HEMP?

In its company literature, Manitoba Harvest calls hemp a “super food.” That’s no exaggeration: Hemp seeds contain all of the essential amino and fatty acids necessary to maintain a healthy body. They’re an excellent source of protein, comparable to soybeans. Nuts, dairy products and meat don’t have the protein levels of hemp seeds—and hemp protein is far easier to digest. Plus, a diet rich in hemp seed can be highly effective in dealing with a number of conditions, including diabetes, eye disease, osteoporosis, menopause, PMS and eczema. Best of all, hemp foods taste great, too.

The Manitoba Harvest product line includes protein powders and concentrates, shelled hemp seed, hemp oil, hemp-seed butter and the first organic hemp milk—and there are more concoctions on the way. Whether you’re making pasta, a salad, a smoothie or fresh-baked bread, hemp is a “gateway” food to the highest levels of nutrition that you can achieve.



Shelled hemp seed, a tasty treat.

Manitoba Harvest has seen a 50 percent growth annually, while hemp itself has become one of the fastest-growing segments of the health food industry.



Manitoba’s brain trust plans for the future.

Not surprisingly, Manitoba Harvest has to devote a great deal of energy to countering years of government-issued anti-hemp propaganda. In fact, educating the public about hemp and its role in a healthy lifestyle is the foundation of the company’s mission. The growth of Manitoba Harvest can be likened to a political campaign that stays constantly “on message.” The company participated in 40 events last year, including trade shows and public events where consumers could be introduced to the good sense that hemp foods make. Just as important, sales, marketing, financing and production need to be tightly coordinated in order

to meet the huge expansion of the marketplace.

In the beginning, the company’s products appeared in only a few Canadian health-food stores. Today, Manitoba Harvest products can be found in health-food stores and supermarkets throughout Canada and even the US. Additionally, the company does “private label” manufacturing and exports hemp products to other companies for use as ingredients in such items as cereal, snack bars, chips and salad dressings. Thanks to this kind of diligence, Manitoba Harvest has seen a 50 percent growth annually, while hemp itself has become one of the fastest-growing segments of the

health-food industry, with estimates that in the US alone, over \$300 million will be spent on hemp-food products in 2010.

That’s why many American entrepreneurs would like to see the Obama administration produce an edict similar to the one it issued last year, when it ordered the DEA to back off from harassing legal, state-sanctioned medical-marijuana growers and patients. Seriously, if cultivating high-THC pot is permitted under state law, shouldn’t low-THC industrial hemp be the logical next step?

Manitoba Harvest isn’t worried about the impact of such a policy: The company looks forward to the day when the US finally gets its head out of its ass and restores hemp to its rightful, legal place in American agriculture. “It would be a positive for us,” says Mike Fata. “We’re ready to go. Remember, we’re less than 100 miles from the border. For farmers in North Dakota and Minnesota who want to grow industrial hemp, our processing facilities are unbelievably close. Legalization in the US would only intensify business for us. We support all hemp farmers. Mass awareness of the benefits of hemp will change everything, and we will benefit along with everyone else.” ✨

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2010 LEGALIZAT

**An exclusive excerpt from
*The Official HIGH TIMES
Pot Smoker's Handbook:
Featuring 420 Things to
Do When You're Stoned.***

By David Bienenstock

Will this be the year that we finally legalize marijuana, once and for all? Well, probably not for *all*, but there will be a major push to pass the Tax, Control and Regulate Cannabis Act of 2010 this November in California—a voter initiative similar to Prop. 215, which was enacted in 1996 and protects medical-marijuana patients and providers. Only this time, California's reformers have focused on outright legalization for adult use (see page 40 for more info).

As anyone who's been following the great marijuana debate in the media lately knows, nationwide support for marijuana-law reform is at an all-time high. So how do you join the "green team" and help make sure that our nice dreams become a reality? Start by joining up with marijuana activists wherever you live, whether it's helping to start a legalization campaign in your state or local community, or lobbying Congress to end the federal prohibition against cannabis nationwide.

For as long as the misguided laws against marijuana have been enforced, dedicated activists have been working hard to change them, either by educating their fellow citizens, contacting their elected officials, or engaging in civil disobedience and public protest. Marijuana smokers represent a massive voting bloc of millions of concerned Americans from all walks of life and every demographic—rich and poor; Republican, Democrat and independent; young and old; black, white, Hispanic, Asian and every shade in between. We've been persecuted for more than 70 years, but the times, they truly are a-changin'—and if we all learn to roll together for reform, nothing can stop us from achieving our freedom.

Each of the organizations that make up the "grassroots" marijuana movement has a different approach to making our dreams a reality—but all of them can and will make you a part of a broad social-justice movement that's closer than ever to truly changing the world. And remember, getting involved not only feels great and creates positive change, it's also an excellent way to make kind new friends who share a common interest.



National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)

Founded: 1971

www.norml.org

Not only is "NORML" misspelled, it's highly inaccurate, as the oldest and largest marijuana-law reform organization in America actually represents an extraordinary group of activists willing to donate their time, money and reputations to the cause of cannabis freedom. With a large base of small donors, NORML is heavily involved in all aspects of reform, including medical, legislative and educational campaigns, while always maintaining its focus on issues of concern to America's recreational-cannabis consumers. Join them as a paying member or simply volunteer your time, and you'll help work towards NORML's stated goal of "moving public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of cannabis prohibition so that the responsible use of this drug by adults is no longer subject to penalty."

In addition to its national office in Washington, DC, NORML supports more than 100 state and local chapters, including many on college campuses. NORML advisory-board members have included people like Hunter S. Thompson, Robert Altman and Rick Steeves.

Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)

Founded: 1998

www.ssdp.org

A small group of young, dedicated activists started SSDP following the enactment of a provision to the Higher Education Act that banned federal financial aid to anyone with a drug conviction—even for simple possession of a single joint—but imposed no such sanctions against serial killers, arsonists or crooked politicians. Now the nation's fastest-growing student organization, SSDP has already managed to partially repeal the Aid Elimination Penalty, and they plan to take it all the way down.

In addition to national offices in Washington, DC, and San Francisco, SSDP maintains chapters on hundreds of college campuses across America and, increasingly, around the world. If there isn't an SSDP chapter on your campus, get one started!

Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation (SAFER)

Founded: 2005

www.saferchoice.org

SAFER's very name poses the question: Which is safer, alcohol or marijuana? A cursory glance at the number of deaths per year caused by each substance (alcohol: around 100,000; marijuana:

ION GUIDE



0] should answer that question once and for all—and yet, we all know where the law comes down on this subject. Starting out on college campuses, and working up to a ballot initiative for the entire state of Colorado, SAFER has been bypassing the politicians and putting that question directly to voters. Check out hightimes.com/safer for the HIGH TIMES interview with SAFER co-founder Mason Tvert and get the full story on how his organization campaigned to legalize the herb in the city of Denver.

Marijuana Policy Project (MPP)

Founded: 1995

www.mpp.org

Beware any organization whose stated goal is “minimizing the harm associated with marijuana.” Yet in the case of MPP, the organization believes that the greatest harms associated with marijuana stem from its prohibition.

Flush with money from major donors, MPP plays the role of insider lobbyist, cultivating relationships in Washington with an establishment-friendly image that may make less buttoned-up stoners feel a little underdressed for the party. MPP also uses its largesse to help fund state ballot initiatives and scholarly research as an effective means of ending the War on Marijuana—not to mention throwing the occasional

gala bash featuring celebrity supporters like television host Montel Williams, who smokes medical marijuana to treat his multiple sclerosis.

Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS)

Founded: 1986

www.maps.org

Wouldn't it be cool if they did experiments with psychedelic drugs to see if they could possibly help and heal people, rather than trying to keep everything under wraps? Some of the oldest and most advanced cultures on Earth have incorporated the ritualistic use of psychedelic drugs into their societies as a kind of spiritual medicine, and MAPS founder Rick Dobbs thinks we should find out why. MAPS has already gotten FDA approval to study MDMA-assisted psychotherapy in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder. It has also undertaken the first human study analyzing the effectiveness of marijuana vaporizing; won a lawsuit against the DEA for its refusal to license a MAPS-funded medical-marijuana production facility; and struggled for nearly a decade to start the first human study in over 15 years on the medical use of cannabis.

Talk to these guys if you want to turn on the world from the inside out.

Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP)

Founded: 2002

www.leap.cc

Modeled after Vietnam Veterans Against the War, which used the credibility of combat veterans to denounce an unwinnable and disastrous conflict, LEAP is a group whose membership is open only to cops, DEA agents, prosecutors and other accredited law-enforcement officials. Even so, most members wait until they retire from the force before taking the leap into the opposition, as dissension in the ranks isn't tolerated in the War on Drugs. So if you're a cop, and you know firsthand the horrible hypocrisies of drug prohibition, please join up with LEAP and help everyone come to their senses. You owe it to every citizen you were forced to fuck with due to a system that's out of control. And if you're not a cop, thank your lucky stars that there are men and women out there brave enough to risk their reputations by telling the awful truth about the War on Drugs.

Americans for Safe Access (ASA)

Founded: 2002

www.safeaccessnow.org

An Oakland-based organization at the heart of the fight for medical marijuana in California and beyond, ASA now claims 30,000 members comprising chapters in over 40 states. Working in partnership with local, state and federal officials, ASA has helped the modern med-pot movement make amazing strides by working with politicians, patients and providers to help implement sensible and secure regulations for medical marijuana. And they're often the first ones out in the street protesting whenever the federal government decides to arrest a medical patient or raid a legally operating dispensary—a successful media counteroffensive that, over time, has forced the federal government to finally respect the rights of states with medical-marijuana laws.

Join ASA and you'll become a part of the largest organization working solely on the issue of medical cannabis.

Drug Policy Alliance (DPA)

Founded: 2000

www.drugpolicy.org

A large umbrella organization overseeing a multitude of specific projects, DPA believes that the War on Drugs causes more harm than good and envisions a future where citizens are not punished for what they put into their bodies, but only for harm done to others. As the name implies, they're mostly interested in drug policy—specifically the way that the laws against drugs are written, and the real-world effects of those laws once they're unleashed on the public.

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HOLLYWOOD HYDRO

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH EDWARD NORTON

The Oscar-nominated star of *Fight Club* explains the unique challenges—and philosophical joys—of playing a hydroponic ganja grower on the big screen.

By David Bienenstock

Any movie that includes an A-list Hollywood star debating the relative merits of using sodium-vapor versus LED lighting in his hydroponic ganja growroom will likely get the attention of HIGH TIMES. In *Leaves of Grass*, a dark comedy out this month, Edward Norton plays identical twins—one an Ivy League professor on the academic fast track, the other a down-home pot grower drifting into dangerous waters. What brings the two together, for better or worse, is a massive, state-of-the-art, nutrient-film technique hydro setup secreted away in a Quonset hut in the backwaters of rural Oklahoma.

When Bill Kincaid gets a call that his black-sheep brother Brady has been murdered with a crossbow, he escapes his ivory tower and returns home to his humble roots for the first time in many years, only to find the cannabis cultivator in question alive and well—not to mention in deep shit with the violence-prone financier of his \$200,000 “Taj Mahal” of hydroponics.

And my, oh, my, it’s an impossibly beautiful grow op, in the way that only Hollywood can build them—which is to say with the vegetative plants and the flowering plants all in the same big room. Wouldn’t work in real life, of course, what with the different lights required for each section running on separate schedules, not to mention considerable variance in optimal temperature and humidity, but even so, that one massive growroom sure looked fantastic up on the silver screen.

Besides, that was the film’s only technical error when it comes to growing weed, and it was clearly made on purpose in pursuit of superior aesthetics. Norton, playing Brady, not only knows his expanded clay pellets from his rockwool cubes, he also waxes philosophic about the relative merits of growing all-natural *Cannabis sativa* versus getting involved with the vastly inferior man-made substitutes.

And keep in mind that the how-to aspects of marijuana cultivation are hardly integral to the plot of this movie. (Interested parties may wish to consult *Jorge Cervantes’ Ultimate Grow* DVDs for a more detailed look at growroom construction and design.) In the meantime, *Leaves of Grass* finds the two-time Academy Award-nominated star of *Fight Club* and *The 25th Hour* bringing his considerable talents to a film he describes as “a cross between *Pineapple Express* and *Adaptation*.”



“The first rule of weed club is that you do not talk about weed club.”



Synthetic pot plants borrowed from *Pineapple Express* fill the "Taj Mahal of hydroponics."



'Personally, I think all the issues surrounding the "War on Drugs," and whether it has been effective or not, are fascinating.'

Do you think that the stereotype of the marijuana smoker is changing in society at large, and also within Hollywood?

I guess I would say so. Certainly, it would be impossible to argue that attitudes towards marijuana haven't been evolving—it is much less "counterculture" than it used to be. The states are starting to take more liberalized approaches, while the federal government is tacitly, if not overtly, saying that they will not necessarily pur-

You must get lots of scripts. Why did you decide to play a marijuana grower? What attracted you to this script and this project?

There were a lot of reasons. First and foremost, I laughed when I read it, and not just because it had this whole Oklahoma subculture of growers—it was the juxtaposition of these themes of classical philosophy, an unlikely mash-up of references to Plato and Socrates. I liked the unique mix. And then, obviously, as an actor, the idea of playing twins is kind of difficult to not be tempted by.

What special preparations did you make to play a pot grower?

I read a lot of technical literature, and obviously HIGH TIMES as well. I didn't have to do that much digging, because [writer, director and co-star] Tim Blake Nelson had prepared a pretty substantial research file on hydroponic growing. Tim is nothing if not anal-retentive, and I would've been shocked if the things that he had written into the script were not drawn from reputable sources and solid science.

Brady obviously knows a lot about clay aggregates and all the different kinds of nutrients and supplements. My research certainly made me appreciate how deep the expertise is that's involved in the serious cultivation of *anything*. Even though cannabis and hemp are such hardy wild plants, it's still not like just anybody can go out and achieve turbo-charged hydroponic weed in their garage or basement. It's really a serious body of knowledge that needs to be mastered.

What can you tell me about how the film's grow-room was constructed? Did you have an expert onsite?

We had a terrific production designer, Max Bisco, and he really did his research on the lamps, the spindles, hydroponics, and the nutrients. At one point, because we were such a low-budget film, I actually called one of the physical-production guys at Sony, inquired if they were doing anything with all the fancy synthetic pot plants that they used in *Pineapple Express*, and then asked them to



Lost in thought.

loan them to us ... on the cheap. So we saved some money repurposing some of the *Pineapple Express* plants.

Did you talk to any pot growers, or anybody involved in that world, to get into their character or their mindset?

You know ... um ... I didn't. When I did *The 25th Hour*, which was about a heroin dealer in New York, I talked to some guys who had kind of done their time and were out. But that was very different from Brady's whole mindset. He's got an almost romantic, Old World view of what he does. For him, it's very little to do with the criminality of it—in his own way, he is kind of a classicist, like his brother. He appreciates the horticultural art of what he's doing.

Brady looks at growing marijuana as a work of art rather than as a business—which is evidenced by the fact that he's a bad businessman. That's what makes him such an appealing character: His intentions, his relationship to weed and to growing it and purveying it, are all based in a philosophy of life that is pretty holistic. He is not really a criminal. He does not have a criminal mentality. And I liked that about him.

sue prosecutions where the states have made their own rulings. This is a very changed landscape. Obviously, it's a complicated issue—but, yeah, I think things are changing.

As for Hollywood, there's always been a thread of pot comedies, and I don't think that has necessarily changed much. Those have stayed a solid and reliable genre of comedy. One of the things I liked about Tim's whole approach to this film is that he's anchored it in this whole philosophical discussion about how people, since the time of the Greeks, have been figuring out this balance between these sides of ourselves that want to be more Dionysian, and those that want to be more in control.

I know that you're involved in a lot of social-justice issues, and I'm wondering if you see marijuana and the Drug War as part of that.

In *Leaves of Grass*, I think that Tim's discourse kind of floats somewhere up above the nitty-gritty of the legal issues involved; it's more concerned with the philosophical.

Personally, I think all the issues surrounding the War on Drugs and whether it has been effective or not are fascinating. When I was growing up

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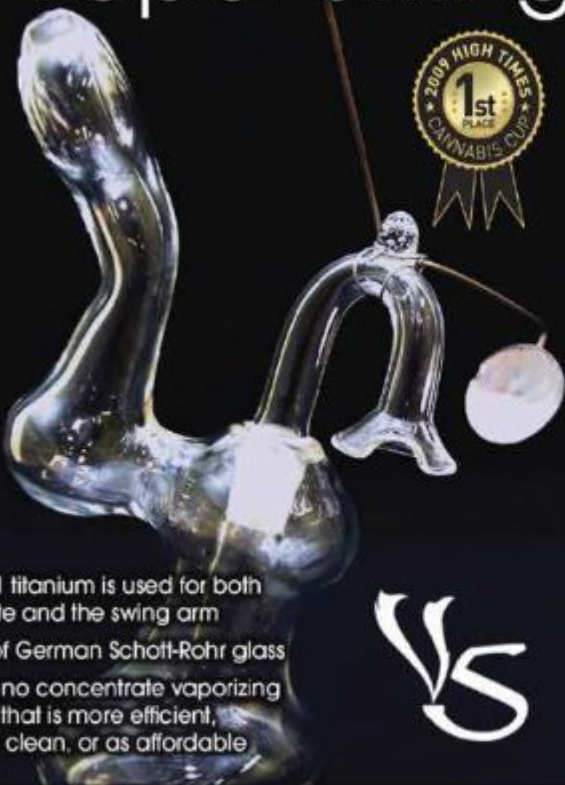


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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

Can you pass the bong, please?

'I can't say I've been anywhere and been shocked when there was cannabis, because it's so pervasive that it's never really surprising to see it.'

in Maryland, the mayor of Baltimore, Kurt Schmoke, was a brilliant attorney and a brilliant federal prosecutor. He came and spoke at Yale when I was a student there and made an incredibly articulate and persuasive case for the failures of American drug policy—and even made a case for legalization on many levels. He was a pretty early voice on that issue, which made an impression on me.

Lately, I have taken a lot of interest in our very wrongheaded policies regarding industrial hemp, which lump it in with cannabis. We have companies that market hemp as a health-food product, but they can't source their hemp from the United States. It's insanity to deny American farmers the possibility of that market. But even there, I see positive trends, and a certain amount of progress being made towards a more rational approach to some of those long-held prejudices.

It seems that you have a special interest in hemp. Is that something you're involved in personally?

Well, no, not in a direct, activist sense—but my friend Woody Harrelson has been a big champion of the legalization of industrial hemp as an important crop for food and textiles. I learned a lot about it from him.

What was your experience like working with Woody on *The People vs. Larry Flynt*?

It was many years ago now, but Woody was tremendous in that film. I really loved the way that film came out, and we've remained friends ever since. I think Woody squares up his ethics with his actions as much as anybody I know. I admire him a lot for that.

When you first started to tell friends and professional peers that you were going to be playing a pot grower, did anybody express concerns that this might be bad for your career?

No, not in the slightest. Anybody reading this script came away laughing and thinking that it would be a field day for an actor to play these two twins.

Is there a place where the philosophical mindset and the cannabis-induced mindset meet?

Absolutely. I think that it's all part of the Dionysian aesthetic of intoxication as a gateway to expanded perception. We live in an age and in a culture where we have drawn strange lines between forms of intoxication. Some things have been deemed legal and others illegal—but nobody can deny that we, as human beings, since before we were completely human, were dealing with mind-altering or intoxicating experiences.

It's fascinating to travel in places like Africa, where people are still living these traditional lifestyles—ways of living that stretch back hundreds or even thousands of years—and see that they root aspects of their medicine and their culture in their interactions with plants that they clearly have a long knowledge of using. I have traveled so much and met so many people, and every place has got their local thing. There are some places where cannabis is not a cultivated experience, but I can't say I've been anywhere and been shocked when there was cannabis, because it's so pervasive that it's never really surprising to see it. ✨

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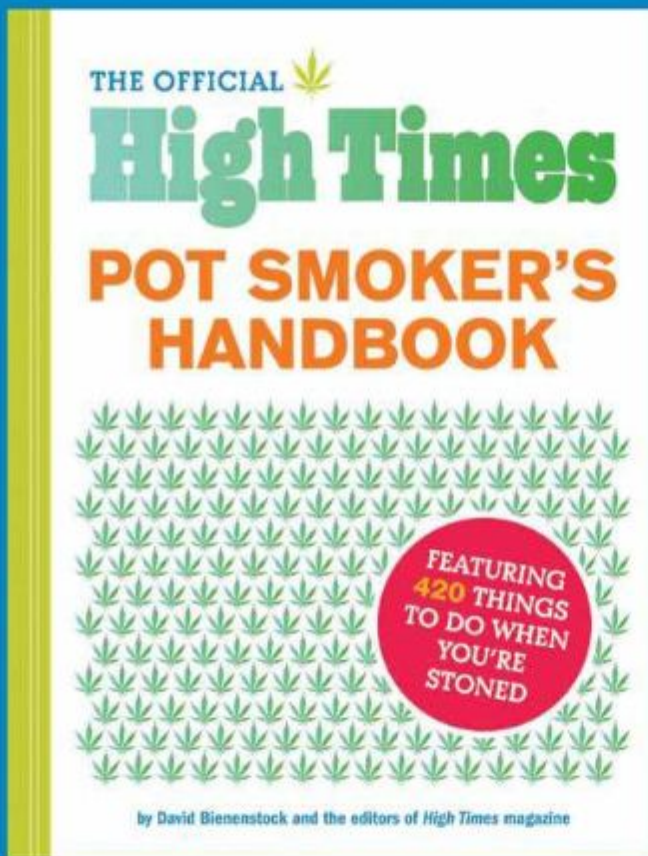
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