



Miss O'Dell Tells

Interview by Dan Skye

If there were such a thing as a female Forrest Gump of rock'n'roll, Chris O'Dell might be it. From 1968 to 1984, she worked with music legends like the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, and had romantic encounters with Mick Jagger, Bob Dylan, Ringo Starr and Leon Russell. She was also one of the first—if not the very first—female tour managers in rock, working with scores of bands. George Harrison immortalized her in his song “Miss O'Dell”; so did Leon Russell in “Pisces Apple Lady” and “Hummingbird.” Today, O'Dell is a licensed substance-abuse counselor with surprisingly fresh views on drug use. Her incredible journey through the world of classic-rock superstardom is chronicled in her just-released memoir, *Miss O'Dell: My Hard Days and Long Nights with the Beatles, the Stones, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, and the Women They Loved* (Simon & Schuster).



Explain how a girl from Tucson, AZ, makes it to London and becomes a Beatles employee.
I was into music—I loved it! I thought, “It’s either go to college and go to drama school, or I could go to LA and not know what the heck I’m going to do.” I chose LA.

When I got there, within a couple weeks somebody told me of a job opening at Dot Records, which handled Liberace and Lawrence Welk—the big swingers. That *wasn't* the music I loved, but I did love music. I got the job, and it was just luck—that was kind of my entrée. After I got the job, a promotion man at A&M Records introduced me to Derek Taylor, the Beatles’ press agent. He was headed back to London for the opening of Apple Records. Derek said, “You ought to go to London”—that’s kind of how things happen in my life. He said, “You’d fit in there.”

At the time, I was living with an aspiring actress—Teri Garr. She talked me into it. This was 1968, and the idea of just picking up, selling everything and moving to London seemed a little extreme. But Teri talked me into it.

On the first day, Paul came in and I met him.

And I went out to the reception area, and John and Yoko were sitting out there. It was all so fast that I really didn’t even have time to think what the heck was going on. There wasn’t immediately a job, but what Derek did was give me little jobs to do: paste press clippings in a book, go get lunches, be a switchboard relief operator—anything I could do.

You became George Harrison’s personal assistant and maintained close relationships with Ringo Starr and both his and Harrison’s wives. Did you ever wonder whether you were truly accepted?

It was a two-edged sword. Number one, I never forgot where I was or what I was doing; I didn’t forget the uniqueness of the situation I was in. I was involved in every aspect of their lives—I was there in the morning, late at night, at recording sessions. It’s all about organization

What was your appeal to rock stars that allowed so many of them to invite you into their world?

I didn’t fully understand it until, looking back on it with age, I just figured that they liked me. I’m fun to be around; I have a good personality. [Laughing]

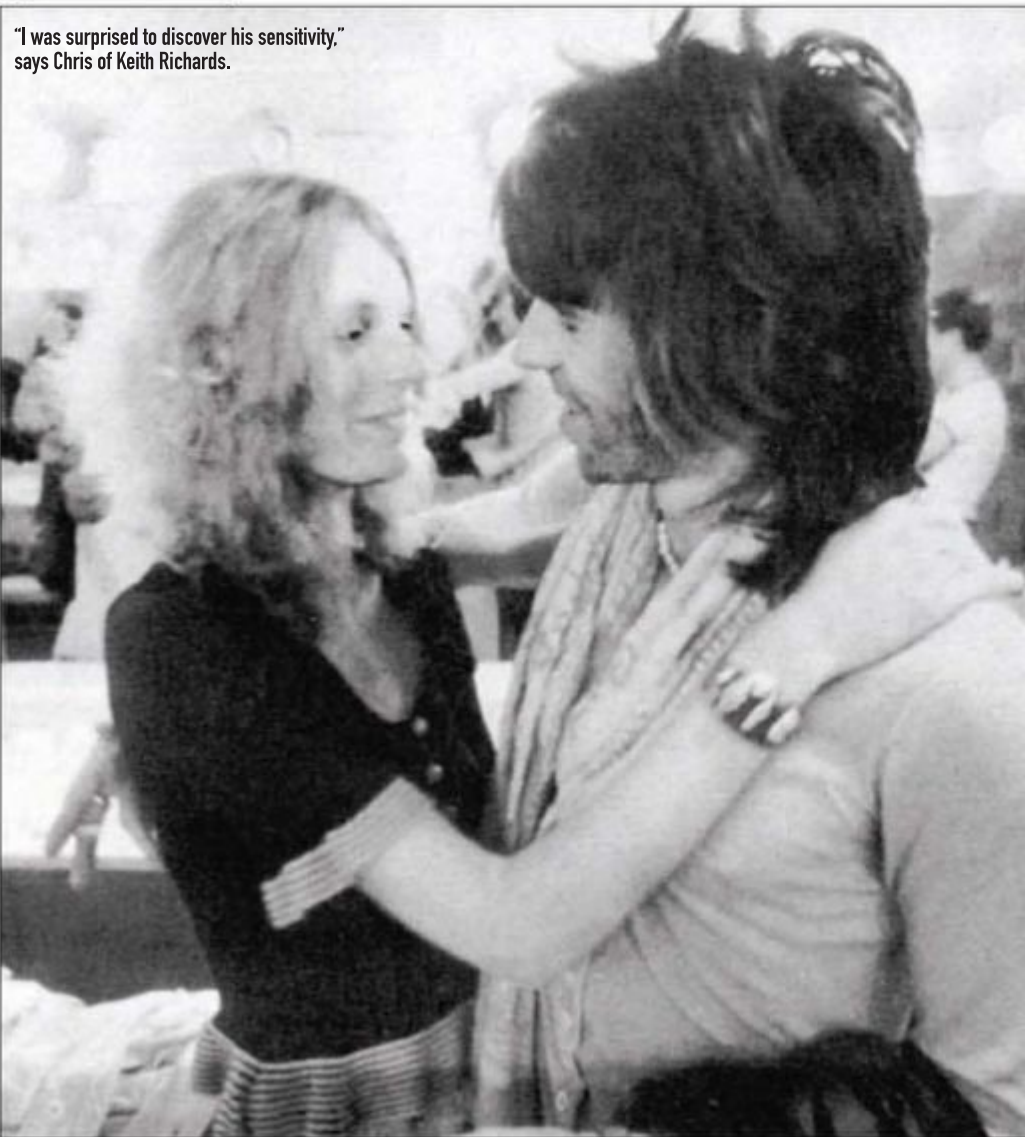
If I hadn’t been in rock’n’roll, I probably should have been a diplomat. I’m the one who tries to make everything go okay. I’m not a very judgmental person—although in my head I am—and I don’t share confidences. I’m able to put my ego aside for other people’s egos. Some of that turned out not to be okay after a while. But at the time, I was having fun, so it really didn’t seem to matter.

So explain what the Beatles phenomenon was from the inside.

It was an interesting time, because Brian Epstein [their long-time manager] had just died—they were seeking ways to find normality, and Brian was really the one who had protected them. Suddenly, it was just the four of them. They were also finding ways to disappear, because life was very tough on them when, everywhere they went, people were following and screaming at them.

As time went on and I went to work for other people, I really was able to see that it had been the freshest place to be for me—to be around them, to be in the Beatle world, so to speak. They weren’t perfect by any stretch of the imagination. But

"I was surprised to discover his sensitivity," says Chris of Keith Richards.



'When Keith called me into his room and said he'd like me to go to LA to pick up "some stuff" for him, I knew exactly what he meant.'

George was trying to find out about spirituality and Krishna and how to find serenity and peace. And John was busy trying to figure out how to bring peace to the world. Paul was just trying to figure out music. And Ringo was just looking for whatever was going to excite him. They were becoming adults and starting to have families and finding things that were important. They were trying to create some good things at that time—but since they'd gained their fame, they had never worked in the real world. They found out it wasn't that easy. And I think that's what led to the breakup. It was inevitable.

Were the Rolling Stones really the inverse of the Beatles, as music historians say?

That's the way it felt. Not that the Stones weren't together—Mick was a good businessman, and I spent every day with him during the year I was his assistant. They just had more of a bad-boy way about them. That may have been set up publicity-wise, but it was real ... definitely real. But I liked all of them. I don't think I worked for anyone that I really didn't like. Keith, of course, was ... Keith. He

was not as involved with the business, but it was interesting to discover his sensitivity, which I wouldn't have known prior to meeting him.

The publicity for your book says you were a drug runner for rock stars. How true is that?

The first time I read that press release, I thought, "Gee, that's heavy. 'Drug runner'? I didn't know that." Once on the CSN&Y tour, we were going through Customs and I offered to carry the drug bag—hid it in my underwear—because they were less likely to approach me than they were the guys.

There was one time Keith Richards asked me to go to LA—but I didn't feel like I was *running drugs*; it was just a matter of what they needed. At this point, I was still a personal assistant, not necessarily a "tour person." I was just happy to be there. Mick had called me and said, "Come out with us," so I did. In some ways, they were keeping me busy, because it was a tour in which they were trying to get rid of the excess staff. So Mick and Keith both made an effort, as well as Bill Wyman, to try to keep me busy so that I'd have a purpose to be on tour. Mick sent me to New York

with his camera to get it fixed once, and then I flew back—I was used to having them ask me to do these weird things.

And when Keith called me into his room and said he'd like me to go to LA to pick up "some stuff" for him, I knew exactly what he meant. It didn't seem like a big deal. It felt like, "Oh, good, I can help Keith out. I've got something to do. This is cool."

What happened?

Back then, there was no security, so to speak, at airports, so I wasn't worried about getting busted—I was worried about getting busted when I went to get the drugs. Usually, the dealers came to us; we didn't have to go to them. This time, I actually had to go into a part of LA that I didn't know. I was on my own, and the guy was like a *real* dealer—not like our Hollywood people, who like to hang out and who know everybody. It scared me, but in terms of actually carrying the drugs? It wasn't a big deal.

When I flew back into Houston, I went to the hotel. The band used a camper to travel to gigs. Everybody else had already gone to the arena, but Keith had held the camper up to make sure I got there.

In today's anti-drug vernacular, you'd be described as an "enabler." Any misgivings about that?

God, no! I just wanted to make sure I got some.

Tell us about the quality of the pot back then.

It really varied—there were times when you'd smoke a joint and you wouldn't even know if you were high or not. There was a lot of that. I do remember the strongest pot I ever smoked, with Derek Taylor. I think it was a Hawaiian strain—Ice Box was its name. It was the first time that I got *that* high, and it was fine!

How about the Beatles and pot?

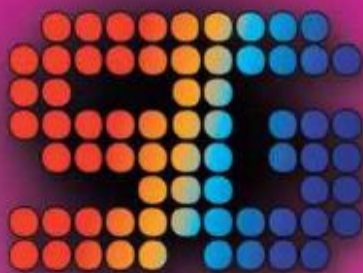
They smoked a lot of hashish. Everybody had their little foil-wrapped hash somewhere. We all smoked cigarettes, so we'd just roll both into a spliff together. But I remember Paul saying once, "I think everybody should quit smoking pot in the Apple building." He didn't really like that in the building where we worked.

What was the response?

Everybody still smoked—they just didn't do it when he was around. But I do remember sitting in my office one day with my friend Denny Cordell [producer of the Moody Blues], and we'd just lit a joint. Paul walked in. It was like: "Uhhh ... hi!"

He was very cool, but I knew he preferred that we not get high at work. It coincided with a time at Apple where money was just rolling out the door. He was really against all the alcohol being consumed—it was a party house in many ways. In his mind, it was: "This is a business. Let's try to keep this thing going. If everybody's high and drunk, nothing's going to happen."

You were in a position of authority during the '60s and '70s when there were very few women in



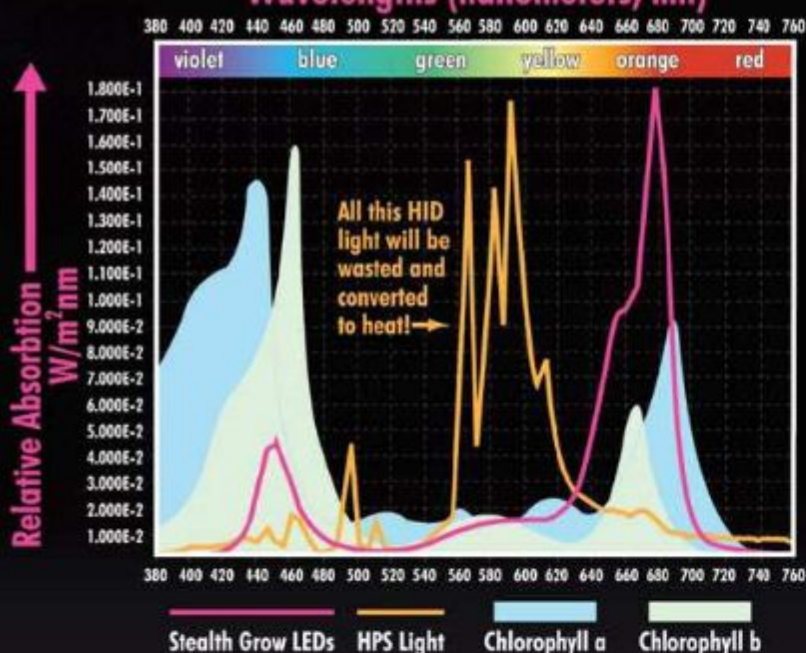
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George Harrison wrote "Miss O'Dell" to immortalize Chris.

those roles. What was that like? Naturally, the first instinct is: If you're a woman in that world, you must be a groupie. There was never really a category or an acknowledgment of the women who worked and did a really good job and earned their place. But the men who I worked for—on tour particularly—gave me a lot of respect, and I respected them. I pulled my weight.

I feel so lucky to have been a part of all that. I'm sure there will be another time that comes along that will mean as much to people, and there will be another need for social change. Maybe we're heading there right now. But it hasn't happened in my lifetime since then.

Obviously, you weren't a groupie, but did you ever feel, after sleeping with rock stars, that it was like putting another notch on your belt? The first thing I wonder when you ask that is: Don't we all do that, to some degree? Even in high school, we say: "I'm hanging out with the most popular guy! This is cool!"

On the other hand, these were the people I was around, and if you smoke enough and drink enough, bed is where you probably are going to end up. Having said that, most of my relationships were not with musicians—they were with people rarely *not* involved in the music busi-

ness. I had more serious relationships with the people who worked in the same way I did: working for bands or managing them.

I actually found it difficult to be in a relationship with someone with that kind of fame—because, somehow, you disappear. The women who have ended up with a lot of these guys are very strong women and sometimes have to battle for attention. That wasn't me.

What was it like being a tour manager for a superband like Crosby, Still, Nash & Young?

It was a reunion tour, which means they had already broken up once. [Laughing] So it was very difficult, because it wasn't a band; it was four artists with their own staffs and their own protectors. It was a lot of work, the hardest I've ever done—and it kind of felt like it never ended. I was exhausted from day one.

As a tour manager, you must have witnessed a fair amount of drug use. Before we even started that tour, there was this trunk—I watched guys take all of the tobacco out of cigarettes and replace it with pot. Then they'd rewrap the cartons so they could get them through Customs unnoticed. In the book, I wrote that the ginseng in ginseng capsules was replaced with cocaine, but I've since

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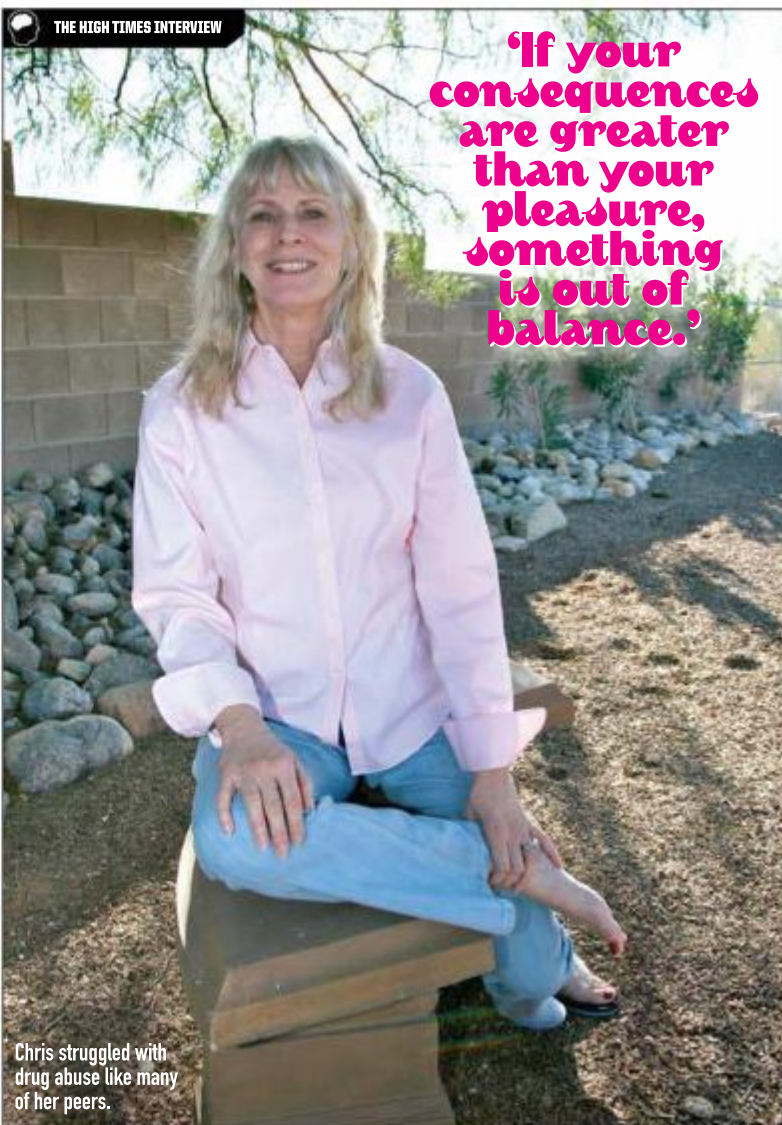
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Chris struggled with drug abuse like many of her peers.

'If your consequences are greater than your pleasure, something is out of balance.'

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

been corrected—it was really Vitamin C capsules, which I kind of like better.

Who was the most self-destructive rock star you ever encountered?

Keith Moon, definitely. David Crosby was going through a very self-destructive time when I knew him, but of the people that I worked with who were at the top of the ladder, there wasn't that much self-destruction. I suppose Keith Richards could be called self-destructive, but look at him—was he?

Describe the perception of drugs in that era.

It was a part of life in that particular subculture; nobody ever saw it as necessarily a problem. We were trying things out, we were experimenting—I don't believe anybody felt we could overdo them. When Keith Moon died, everybody went: "Aw, yeah, but he was so eccentric and overdid everything." No one ever stopped and thought, "Is this a problem?"

In a lot of ways, it wasn't—for a long time. In the early days, we smoked pot, did acid ... but when everyone was doing coke in the late '70s and '80s, people were losing

control. At first, I thought coke was a lot of fun, but I began to see the immense harm that it was doing to me. I'd drink to keep the anxiety down. I was always looking for that balance, and that's where the danger and the harm came. It wasn't recreational—it became a way of living.

As a present-day drug counselor, but also as someone who enjoyed drugs, how do you view drug use?

First off, I want to say that if marijuana was legalized, it would be a smart move.

I believe if your consequences are greater than your pleasure, something is out of balance. Abusing any drug is not good for us. I've chosen abstinence, and abstinence is the current socially desired mode of recovery for nearly everyone. But I would really have to say that as long as we treat substance abuse as a disease, as something we can't control ourselves, we won't be able to find balance.

I've been sober 21 years, and I don't know what would happen if I started drinking or using other drugs again. At this point, it's a choice. I believe in balance I seek it in every part of my life. ✨

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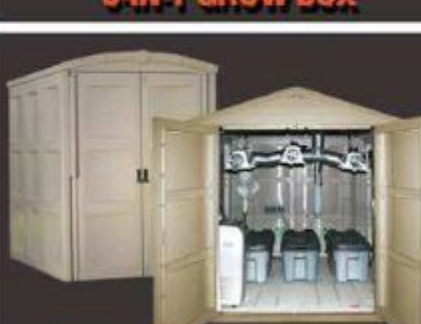
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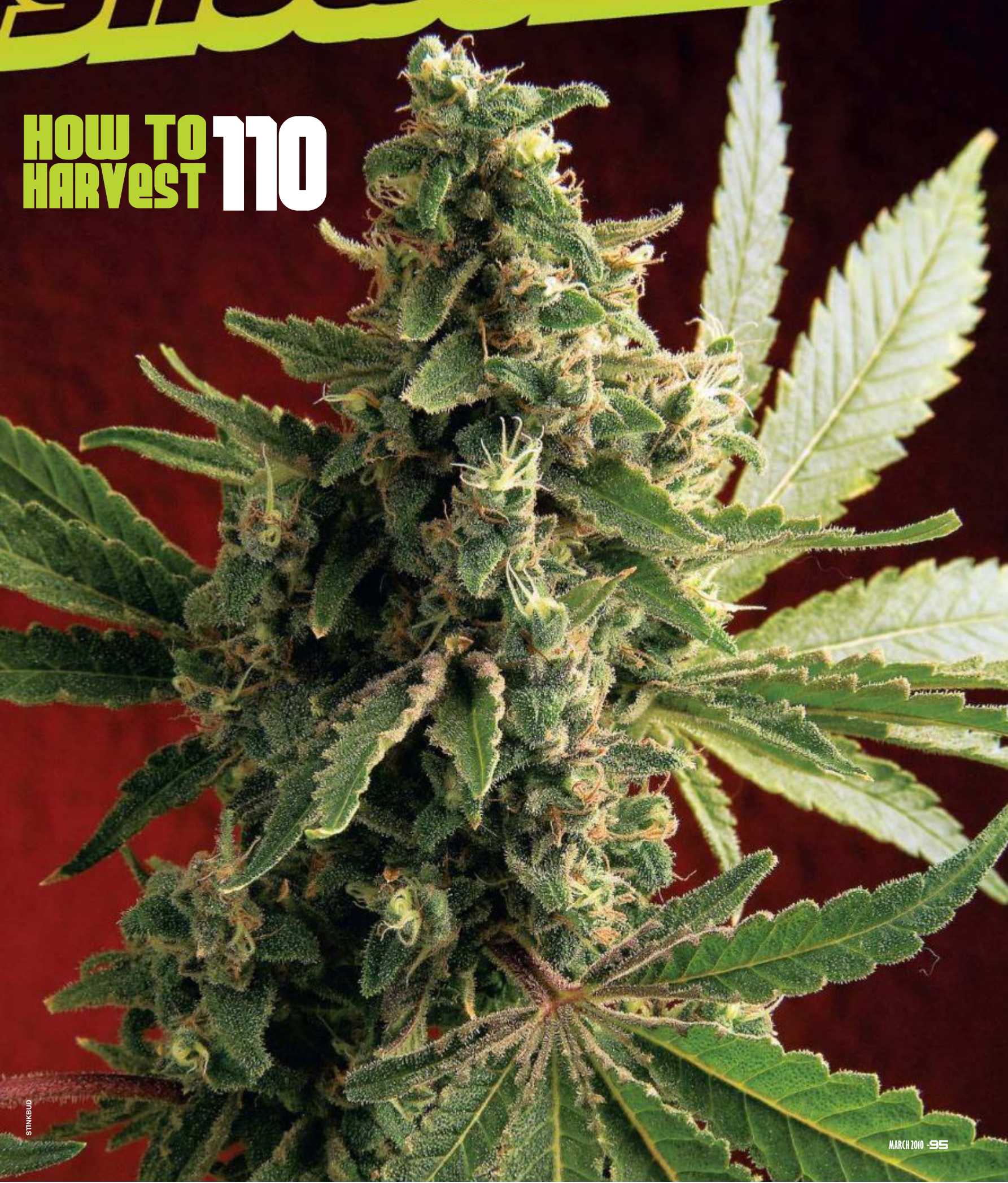
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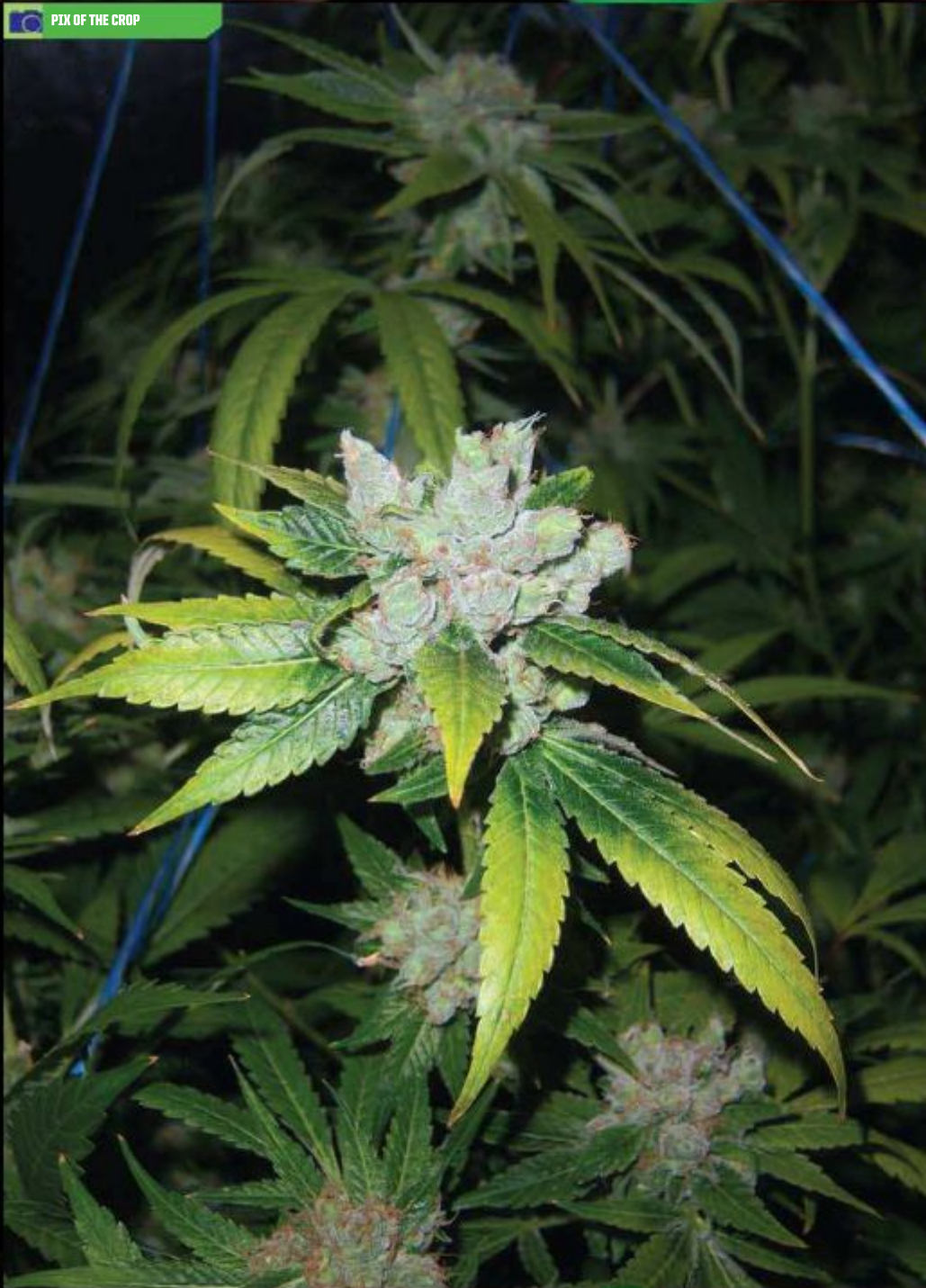
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I had this White Widow stick out its tongue to see if she was ready for harvest. The trichomes appear to be fully developed and have turned from clear to translucent and milky; most of the pistils have gone from white to more of a rust color. I could wait a little longer, but with the high humidity in the greenhouse lately, I think I should take her down before bud mold sets in.—South Bay Ray, Big Island of Hawaii

GEEKED OUT (left)

I'm coming to you from a garage set-up where I run two 1,000-watters and pull about 2.5 pounds off this very unstable Blueberry x Ogre. Her smell is very unique, a mix between sweet blueberries and Vicks VapoRub, so it's pretty smelly.—Chuck Norris

**NICE PROPS** (above)

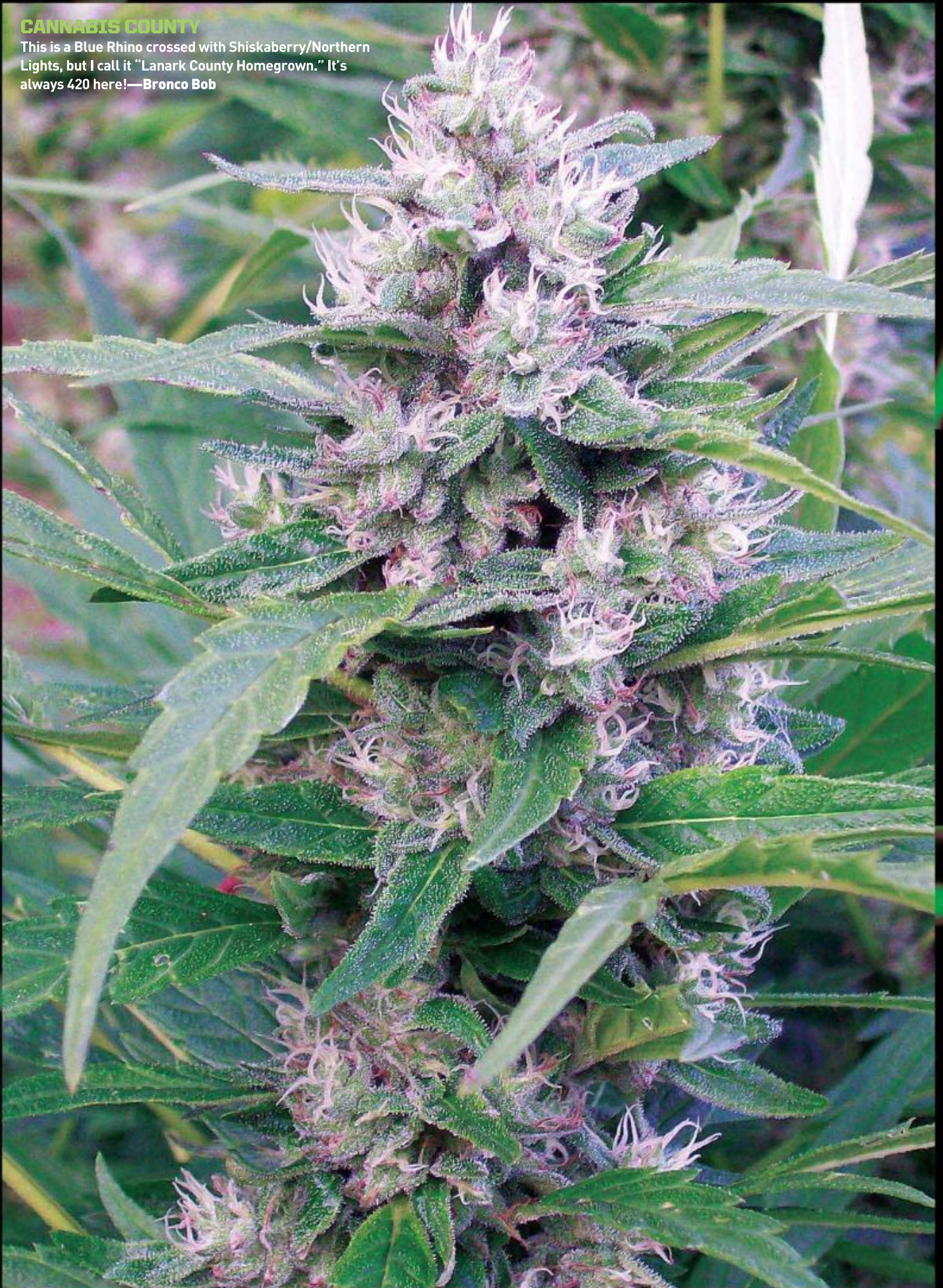
All buds were grown under strict Prop. 215 compliance in sunny California.—JTR

GOT KUSH? (left)

Here's some beautiful P-town Kush I've been growin'! Hope these make the cut!—Nico 13

CANNABIS COUNTY

This is a Blue Rhino crossed with Shiskaberry/Northern Lights, but I call it "Lanark County Homegrown." It's always 420 here!—Bronco Bob



LET'S GO BOWLING!

I packed a special bowl for my friends at HIGH TIMES!—Zos



MANY ARMS (below left)

Here's a shot of my new custom bubbler named "The Octopus." I hope you guys like it. And keep up the good work!—Rex in Menlo Park, CA

RED AND WHITE (below right)

Redwing Pride from Ontario. Summer Haze nug in blue-series Roor with diffuser.—TJS



LONG DUCK BONG

The bonger need food!
—Terrance and Kyle, Orlando, FL



SLIGHTLY STONED (above)

I got these clones from a friend—they turned out fantastic! A strong, heavenly aroma and long-lasting high. Grown in coco with organic nutes; nine to ten weeks in the flowering room. Just in time for the 420 holiday!—Stoopid in Buffalo, NY

TAP THE BOTTLE (above)

In an Absolut world, every bong would be a reverse-gravity bong.—SKUNK

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

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BY NICO ESCONDIDO

EVERYTHING MEDICAL & MORE

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

Maine Voters Authorize Dispensaries

Voters in Maine recently approved a referendum, 59 to 41 percent, that made it the fifth state in the US to allow retail pot dispensaries. California, Colorado, New Mexico and Rhode Island also allow venues where medical-marijuana patients can legally buy pot.

However, medical-marijuana advocates within the state say that Maine won't become like California, where hundreds of marijuana shops have popped up and since come under scrutiny. That's because the Maine law requires dispensaries to be licensed by the state, whereas California does not. The Maine law also narrowly defines the medical conditions for which patients can be prescribed pot, while California allows doctors to recommend it for a broad array of ailments. Even supporters of the referendum say the state will see a much more regulated system.

Fourteen states now have laws allowing some use of marijuana for medical purposes. Maine's medical-marijuana law, first approved in 1999, allows the use of cannabis for debilitating conditions such as cancer, AIDS and multiple sclerosis. Patients are permitted to possess up to two and a half ounces of pot and six marijuana plants, but many of them didn't have a legal way to obtain the medicine. The new law will give them places in the state where they can buy it.

More states could conceivably adopt measures that permit marijuana dispensaries now that the Obama administration has announced that it will not seek to arrest medical-marijuana users and suppliers as long as they're in compliance with state law. The number of dispensaries has already exploded in California and, more recently, in Colorado. Los Angeles alone has

Kali Mist works especially well for a *sativa* when it comes to fighting aches and pains.



MEDICINAL STRAIN OF THE MONTH KALI MIST

A true favorite, Kali Mist has also become a highly popular medicine of choice for patients seeking relief from various symptoms. As a predominantly *sativa* strain, Kali Mist helps in fighting depression and anxiety, but it also does surprisingly well against the chronic pain associated with menstrual cramps and back trouble.

Because it's almost a full-blown *sativa* (only 10% *indica*), this bud grows tall and spindly, with lower yields than the heavier-fruited *indicas*. However, what she lacks in size she makes up for in exquisite flavor and high. With a citrus-y, almost orange aroma and taste, Kali Mist commands high prices because of her quality and her scarcity.

A winner of two HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cups, in 1995 and 2000 (when she was the *Sativa* Cup winner), these prized genetics were originally developed in Amsterdam by the masterful Simon of Serious Seeds. Anyone who knows Simon and his company knows the great pride they take in producing quality genetics and seeds. Because the strain is largely unseen outside of Holland, it is rarely sold in clone form in US dispensaries.

Now it's making a mark in New York City and certain areas of California, Florida and Oregon—though it's always important to be diligent in researching the lineage of any seeds or clones before purchasing them for medicinal use. But should you be fortunate enough to purchase some Kali Mist (as buds or seeds), be sure to share: The world will be better off with the proliferation of these genetics!

up to 800, by some estimates, and Colorado has about 100. New Mexico, on the other hand, has one, and Rhode Island is in the initial phase of setting up its very first dispensaries. In Maine, however, dispensaries are more likely to show up in liberal-

leaning cities and towns where there will be less resistance to the new measures.

Maine Governor John Baldacci supported the referendum and has ordered the creation of a task force that will recommend how to imple-

ment the new law. The 14-member task force will include representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services, the police, the medical community and patient advocates; four members will be appointed by legislative leaders. Baldacci said that creating a new pharmaceutical-distribution system is a complex undertaking, and the goal is to follow the spirit and intent of the law while avoiding unintended consequences.

Finally, some refreshing political sanity and responsibility.

Crazy in Colorado

Speaking of Colorado, how about that wacky ski town of Breckenridge, which voted overwhelmingly to legalize marijuana! The returns showed the proposal winning by an astounding margin, with 72 percent of the votes in favor. The measure allows people age 21 and over to possess up to one ounce of marijuana for personal use.

The measure, of course, is largely symbolic, because pot possession remains both a state crime for people without medical clearance and a federal crime in general. But supporters said they wanted to send a message to local law enforcement to stop busting recreational pot smokers.

HIGH TIMES Launches New Medical Mag

In case you haven't heard the hype, the folks at HIGH TIMES have decided that, in an effort to better serve the growing medical-marijuana community, we'll be launching a new magazine dedicated wholly to med-pot. We call it *Medical Marijuana News & Reviews*.

Due to hit newsstands on the West Coast, in Denver and in select bookstores nationwide in February 2010, this new publication will be very similar in its aims to what we do here in the Cannabis Clinic: educate, inform, and report on the latest and greatest in the medicinal world of ganja. Our hope is to aid patients both old and new in their understanding of the plethora of strains and choices that are available, as well as to help them stay current on developments in the legal and political scene.

Look for *Medical Marijuana News & Reviews* on stands soon, and help us launch our new 'zine and spread it across the globe! 🌿

Got medical questions? Pass 'em over to Nico at nico@hightimes.com.

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Melissa.milam@state.nm.us
(505) 827-2321

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Note: Canadian medical clubs rarely accept US medical marijuana IDs. Prior arrangements need to be made before your visit by contacting the medical club.

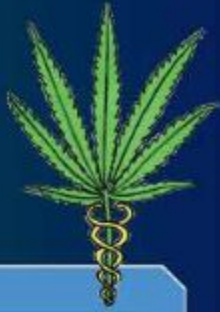
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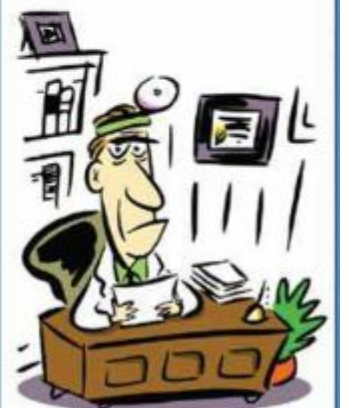
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by David Blumenthal and the editors of High Times magazine

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COCONUT-SATIVA SOUP

Why THC binds best with saturated fat, and other molecular mysteries. **By Ashley Boudreaux**

Once upon a time, there was a man who loved pot roast. Nobody in the history of carcasses or root vegetables had ever cooked a finer roast than his wife did, so one day the man decided to learn her process.

The first thing his wife did, he noticed, was to cut the ends off the roast. The man asked her why.

"Because that's the traditional way it's done," she replied. "My mother taught me to do it that way, just like my grandmother taught her to do it."

"Oh," the man said, chastened and confused. It didn't really make sense, but who was he to question the wisdom of three generations of women? The roast was delicious, after all. Many years and many pot roasts later, the wife's entire family was gathered together for Christmas, so the man seized the opportunity to seek clarification from his grandmother-in-law.

"My wife uses your pot-roast recipe, and it's the best I've ever tasted," he said. "I just have one question, though: Why do you ladies cut the ends off the roast before you cook it? Is that what makes it so tender?"

The matriarch thought hard for a moment and then laughed.

"No, indeed!" she said. "When I was young, we were so poor that we only had one pot, and the roast wouldn't fit unless I trimmed those ends."

For most of us, cooking with cannabis is like trimming the ends from a pot roast: We've inherited the basic idea of what works from those who have gone before us, but we haven't fully mastered *why* or *how* it works. For example, we all know that cannabinoids are soluble in fat, so we cook our weed in butter or oil. But which kind of fat bonds best with THC? Monounsaturated? Polyunsaturated? Saturated? My money's on the saturated fats like butter, because personally I feel higher from ganja butter than ganja oil. And while it's hardly scientific, I called a half-dozen of my stoner friends and asked them which one made them feel higher—butter or oil—and everybody said the same thing: "Butter."



Basil, ganja and coconut cream combine in a luxurious, nourishing soup.

But why is that? Butter and oils are molecularly different: Monounsaturated fats like those in olive oil have a single double-hydrocarbon bond in their chain, while saturated fats like those in butter, bacon grease and coconut byproducts have no double-hydrocarbon bonds at all. Does that make a difference? Could this hold the key? Perhaps the length of the fatty-acid chain is the solution to these riddles?

Hell if I know.

Until HIGH TIMES springs for a super-fabulous *Top Chef* kitchen, a molecular lab and a machine that goes "BING!", I'm just gonna have to wing it. I've been ruminating all month on the fact that some of the terpenes in ganja are also found in lemongrass, mangoes and basil, and that in the case of basil, the (E)-beta-caryophyllene actually binds to the CB2 cannabinoid receptors in the brain and helps reduce inflammation. Couple this with my strong suspicion that THC binds best with saturated fat—and also the realization that a can of coconut cream has as much saturated fat as a stick of butter (but without the cholesterol)—and hell, Thai-style soup was inevitable. So here it is: no butter, no oil—just ganja, coconut cream and a double whammy of natural tasty, harmoniously balanced terpenes.

Holy shit! It *really* works. And hey, it's vegan. 🌱

TOM YUM GANJA

7 grams finely chopped ganja, preferably a sativa strain
2 14-oz cans coconut cream or milk (cream is better if you can find it—but NOT Coco Lopez-type cream)
½ lb small peeled shrimp (optional)
½ cup mango juice
1 stalk fresh lemongrass, peeled and chopped into 3" pieces
1 15-oz can sweet baby corn, drained

1 8-oz can sliced water chestnuts, drained
½ cup chopped green-onion tops
3 tbsp chopped fresh cilantro
2 tbsp fresh chopped basil
1½ tbsp chopped fresh mint
2 tbsp madras curry powder
½ tsp powdered ginger
½ to 1 tbsp garlic chili sauce (Sriracha)
½ lime (for juice)
1 tsp sesame oil

Relax—the cooking time here is a little over 30 minutes total. Combine the first two ingredients in a heavy pot over very low flame. Gently simmer. Stir religiously. Slowly add mango juice. Add lemongrass (plus shrimp, if not going vegan). Let it barely simmer. Add corn and water chestnuts. Return to simmer. Add onions, then herbs. Add curry powder and ginger. Add chili oil. Finish with lime juice, then sesame oil. Remove lemongrass before serving. **Stones seven.**

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HOW MEDICAL IS YOUR MARIJUANA?

Medical-cannabis users' rights vary from state to state: In some they have no rights at all. By Allen St. Pierre

Nearly 15 years have passed since California voters passed Prop. 215, and the remarkable rise and acceptance of medical cannabis has been nothing less than astonishing to witness. Perhaps it's time to stop and examine just how far we've come—and how far we still have to go before all qualified patients have safe, legal access to medical marijuana.

Currently, 13 states have adopted legal protections for qualified medical patients (the news reports typically cite 14, but most reform groups, including NORML, do not include the state of Maryland, which offers patients minimal and inadequate legal protections). NORML separates these states into three categories: *retail access, state-sanctioned dispensary access and self-preservation models.*

Most med-pot states employ the self-preservation model, meaning patients with a physician's recommendation to use cannabis as a medicine can possess and cultivate a small amount, but there are no legal outlets through which to purchase cannabis, hashish or edibles. The states that follow the self-preservation model are Alaska, Hawaii, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Vermont.

Meanwhile, state-sanctioned dispensary access means that qualified patients can legally purchase a small amount of cannabis products. This is the case in Maine, New Mexico and Rhode Island.

Medical patients in retail-access states enjoy the greatest degree of access to a wide range of medical-cannabis products. To date, the only two retail-access states are California and Colorado.

In 2010, state legislatures in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, North Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota and Texas will all attempt to pass medical-cannabis bills. And the states of Massachusetts and Oregon may well join the initiative parade in 2012, if state legislators continue to punt on passing medical-cannabis legislation this year.

Elections Have Consequences

While NORML is nonpartisan, it would be hard to dispute the numerous positive (albeit minor) changes to America's War on Some Drugs that have been made during Obama's first year as president. While unfortunately dismissive of legalizing cannabis for non-medical purposes, his administration has undertaken a number of dramatic and positive policy reforms, notably recognizing both medical cannabis's acceptance by state voters and the need to cease committing federal law-enforcement resources against state-compliant medical-cannabis cultivators and providers.

But this is as it should be. During the 2008 presidential campaign, every single Democratic candidate pledged to end the federal raids on state medical-cannabis providers. In contrast, every Republican candidate—with the notable exception of Ron Paul—opposed patient access to medical cannabis. This is a major political distinction between our duopolistic political parties. The Democratic Party, from this point forward, should be recognized as the party that supports patient access to cannabis products.

For medical-cannabis-law reforms to continue at their rapid pace, reform organizations and stakeholders in this important issue need to do a better job of reaching out and educating Republicans about the safety, efficacy and economic savings derived from patient access to medical cannabis. When the Republicans start supporting access to the same degree or greater than their opponents, we'll all know that a major corner has been turned toward the total liberation of the cannabis plant from the clutches of this continuously failing and expensive 73-year-old government prohibition. ✨

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML in Washington, DC. You can contact NORML at www.norml.org or 888-67-NORML.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

Jessica Corry & Republican Moms for Marijuana By Russ Belville

The *Colorado Statesman* named well-known public-policy analyst and political strategist Jessica Corry as one of Colorado's top "Movers & Shakers." Corry has run for public office and led over 20 civic organizations, and was a featured TV commentator during the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

Recently, Corry rocked the mainstream media with her *Colorado Daily* column headlined "Republican Moms for Marijuana: Time to Legalize Is Now," in which she wrote: "As a Republican mother committed to legalizing marijuana, political life can be lonely ... [but] if we believe that smaller government is better government, we must trust people to choose what to put into their bodies. If we support legalized access to alcohol, cigarettes, and 700-calorie cheeseburgers, we should legalize marijuana—a far less harmful substance."

Corry adds a refreshing voice for reform from the underrepresented demographic of conservative women. Despite her incredibly busy career working on property-rights issues for the Independence Institute, authoring nationally cited publications on eminent domain and academia, and speaking at the Libertarian National Convention, Corry still finds time to present speeches at the NORML Aspen Legal Seminar and other marijuana-law-reform events.

Following CU Boulder's famous 4/20 smoke-in, Corry told the gathered crowd: "Just because close to six out of 10 people voted against [Colorado's 2006 legalization initiative], it doesn't mean all six of those people are against us. It means we haven't gone out there and done our jobs. We need to lawyer up. We need to put suits on and start playing with the big boys down at the Capitol."

With leaders like Jessica Corry, the "big boys" better take heed.
Russ Belville hosts NORML's daily audio podcast at stash.norml.org.



Jessica Corry.

Ask Dr. Mitch



Dr. Mitch,
You can imagine what inspired this question: Did murder rates go down after alcohol prohibition was over?

SOH Kool

Hi SOH,
Yes. In 1933, when Prohibition ended, the rates for murder, burglary and a host of other crimes all dropped. The end of Prohibition wasn't the only big change that happened that year, but it clearly contributed to the decrease in crime. A number of other problems will likely drop when cannabis prohibition ends, too.

Can marijuana fix osteoporosis?

Forrest McCoy

Hi Forrest,
We're not quite there yet. One of the cannabinoid receptors (CB2) definitely affects bone loss. However, chemicals that stimulate the receptor will also slow bone loss in some mice, but not in others. Better to exercise, eat right and drink your milk.

I've got a friend from the Caribbean who says that they smoke pot to not feel hungry. Don't they get the munchies down there?

Roberta F.

Hi Roberta,
It may be a question of dosage and strain. Smaller doses enhance the appetite, while larger doses may suppress it. Many strains make people quite hungry, but others don't. I wouldn't start the marijuana weight-loss plan anytime soon, but higher doses can decrease hunger.

Did George Washington ever smoke a bowl?

S.O.

Hi S.O.,
Many of the Founding Fathers grew hemp, but there's no evidence they smoked it. Hemp has long stalks and plenty of fiber; it would make a terrible smoke. Medical cannabis back then was usually administered in a tincture, not smoked. It seems unlikely that any of these guys sat around doing bong hits.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? E-mail him at 420research@gmail.com.

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HOW TO HAVE A HEAVY HARVEST

Getting ready for the first harvest of 2010? Before you pull down those plants, check out this exclusive excerpt from *The Official High Times Pot Smoker's Handbook* (Chronicle Books), which covers clipping, drying and curing cannabis in the proper manner, followed by a slew of quick-reference tips from our cultivation editor. Remember, a healthy harvest is a happy harvest!

"Holy frijole, my plants have gotten huge! I remember when they were just little clones, fresh-clipped from their mother plant, still struggling to take root ... and now look at these lovely, lovely ladies. They grow up so fast, *sniffle, sniffle.*"

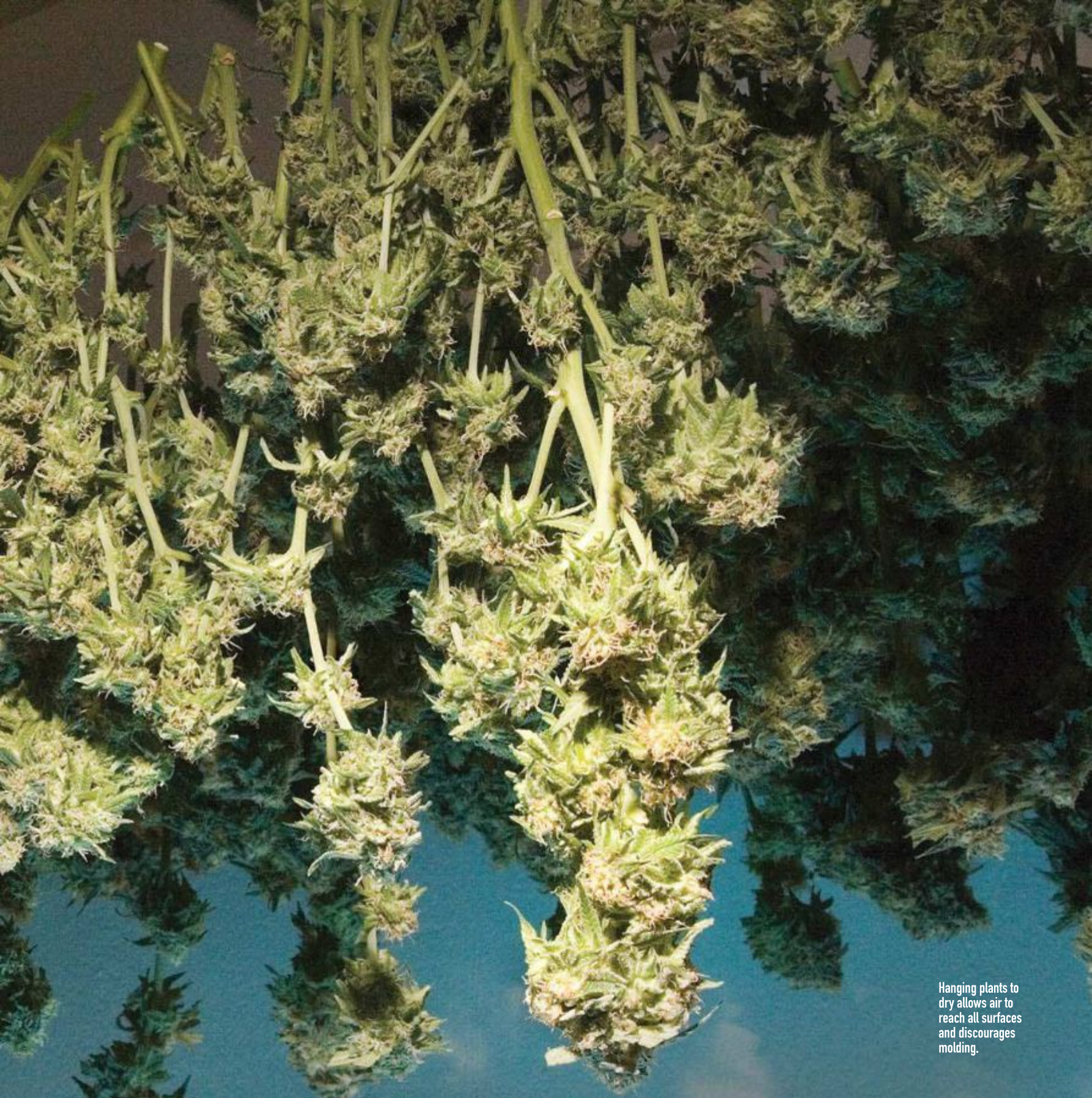
Nothing's harder than knowing when to harvest. On the one hand, you can't wait to start smoking all that amazing marijuana, and on the other, you've grown so attached to your beautiful garden that you can barely bring yourself to cut the cord. But it must be done before the buds go past their peak, and the optimal harvesting window only stays open for about five days.

Gauge the ripeness of your ganja by examining the resin glands, which change color as they mature. For the best view, use a magnifying glass, jeweler's loupe or even a handheld microscope. As the resinous trichomes approach their peak, they

will start off clear, turn a translucent milky white, and finally darken to amber. Most growers try to harvest at the first sign of fully mature amber trichomes.

About two weeks before harvest, flush out your garden with plenty of water to remove any excess fertilizer, and then stop watering two days before harvest so the plants will dry more quickly once you have cut them. For optimal THC levels, always harvest in the morning.

Beware: At harvest time, your girls will never smell sweeter or more pungent, an otherwise pleasing aroma that unfortunately can be overpowering enough to alert the neighbors to what you've been doing down in your basement over the past few months. So plan your harvest as carefully as your planting, keeping in mind that you'll need to dry, trim and cure all of those buds before you smoke a single joint.



Hanging plants to dry allows air to reach all surfaces and discourages molding.

First, figure out where you can securely hang up your harvest before you chop it down, and install an air filter if the smell poses a problem. The drying room should be cool and dark, with good air circulation and temperatures below 70°F—and never dry plants in the same room in which you’re growing them.

Once you’ve got your drying room ready, cut the main stem at the bottom of each fully mature plant with sharp clippers and then use scissors to trim off the largest branches and fan leaves while the plants are still wet. Save the trimmed leaves to make water-extraction hash, and hang the buds upside down from the stems for five to seven days to dry. Don’t put fresh buds in the microwave, in direct sunlight, or even point a fan at them, as these “quick-dry” methods all degrade the quality of the cannabis you worked so hard to grow.


Once the stems snap cleanly when bent, you can take them down and trim off any remaining leaves. Work over a silk screen or kief catcher so you can

collect the fallen resin and easily press it into hash. High-quality “scissor hash” will also collect as you trim, which makes the sometimes-painstaking manicuring process a lot more fun, not to mention helps you resist the temptation to start smoking all those sweet buds before they’re cured.

Curing—the process of slowly leaching the last traces of moisture out of “dry” buds—protects the THC and other cannabinoids from breaking down too quickly during storage, and it also prevents mold. Properly cured herb is more potent and flavorful and yields a far smoother smoke.

Place your buds in an airtight glass container, piling in as many as possible without damaging them. Moisture will evaporate into the air trapped in the jar, slowly drying the buds from the inside out. Periodically open the jar and turn the buds over to release this moisture and allow more sweating. Check the buds several times a day until they’re perfectly and evenly dry.

And then, yes—you can finally roll some up and get higher than a moth-fucker. It will be all the more special because you waited.



Cutting branches just below a node creates hooks to hang individual colas for drying.

Quick-Reference Tips for a Smoother Harvest From Nico

The process of harvesting, drying and curing is perhaps the most underestimated aspect of cannabis cultivation. How, when and where you cut, dry and store your buds can make a big difference in the final product. Proper flushing, drying and curing all affect the taste, aroma and—believe it or not—the *potency* of your herb!

Flushing, or leaching, is the process of removing all undesirable nutrients and built-up food reserves (such as sugars, starches and other elements) *before* chopping down the ladies. Leaving even trace amounts of these elements in your herb will create a harsh, unhealthy smoke that burns poorly.

Most expert growers begin flushing their gardens two weeks before harvest using only fresh water. The last flush should come about two days before harvest so that the plants are dry and retaining the least amount of water possible.

An advanced technique often used before harvest is the “two-step flush.” This involves the deliberate over-irrigation of plants with fresh water to help dissolve nutrient buildup, and the process is quite simple. First, flood the grow medium with a heavy dose of water and wait a few minutes to allow all of the salts (nutrient buildup) to break down. Then add more water to chase out the first dose. By waiting a few minutes before adding the second dose of water, you’re allowing enough time for the first dose of water to dissolve the salts. As it does, the salts can be effectively flushed out by the second dose.

The time of day that you harvest will have a tremendous impact on the final quality of your buds. Harvest your precious buds in the dark, just before the lights normally come on. If possible, do not allow the plants to see direct light as long as their roots are attached. Direct light on a plant will cause it to draw up stored starches and sugars from its root system.

When the relative humidity in the garden is low, resin production increases. This is a natural response of cannabis, an attempt to protect itself from hot, dry conditions. Marijuana resin actually has one of the highest UV ratings in the plant kingdom: The resins reflect light, preventing the buds from getting sunburned. Lowering the humidity in the room for that last 24 hours before harvest will ensure increased resin production.

Cut the entire plant away from the root-ball. If your plants are too large to harvest by a single cut to the bottom, start by cutting the larger, heavier branches first. Remember to leave one or two larger stems connected to the branches you are cutting off. These stems will form nice V’s on the branches for easy hang-drying.

Once the plants are cut, trimmed and manicured to perfection, it’s best to hang the branches upside down on strings strung across open spaces to get maximum airflow over your buds. However, remember that the buds on the branches will slow the drying, since the branches still retain some water, so small branches are best!

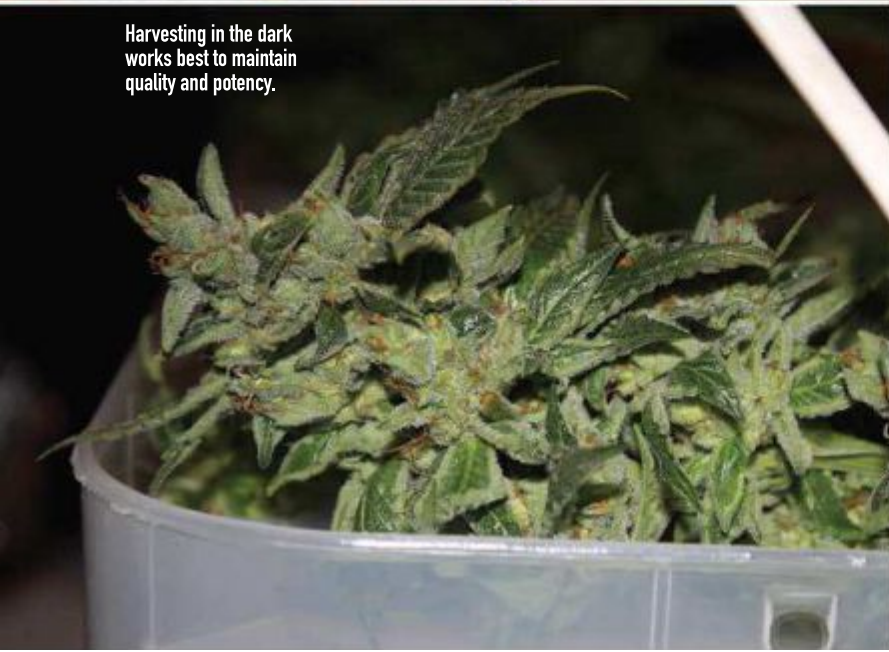
Buds should hang-dry for five to seven days in ideal conditions (about 70° F and 50% humidity). You want to get most of the water out of the buds in those first days and then slow the curing process down for another week or so.

Curing evens out the moisture levels in the herb. You want the same amount of moisture at the center of the bud as it has on the outside, and you want to maintain this balance until the buds are almost totally devoid of fluids. Allowing them to cure evenly and at a slower rate removes moisture within the buds so that all of the THC can be converted to its psychoactive form.

Toward the end of the curing process, put the mostly dried buds into airtight containers. Inside the containers, the buds will become evenly moist, inside and out, as they begin to “sweat.” Air exchanges are an essential part of the curing process, since they prevent condensation from forming in your curing bins and bring in air that is fresher and drier. Open the container several times a day to exchange the wet, used air with dry, fresh air and slowly draw out the moisture still lurking in your buds. ✨



Laundry lines make it easy to space out branches for more airflow.



Harvesting in the dark works best to maintain quality and potency.

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BY DANNY DANKO



SKILLET VAPOR CURVE

With more and more cannabis extractions becoming available, we felt it was important to find ways to smoke or vaporize them without clogging our bongs all the time. The new **Skillet Vapor Curve** from Labworx allows us to puff even the most liquid-like concentrates without inhaling butane or making a mess. It fits into a standard 38-millimeter water pipe or bubbler, and the unique titanium plate swings away to allow heating and back under the bowl for inhaling. It's like the perfect "hot knife" session without any of the hassles! The Skillet Vapor Curve is made from German Schott-Rohrglas and is easy to clean, which means it's perfect for medical patients with limited mobility.

Price: \$90 plus shipping

Contact: Labworx, labworx-skillet.com. Retail sales: Aqua Lab Technologies, 951-683-4940, aqualabtechnologies.com



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The problem with most pipes featuring built-in lighters is that they're made of metal and quickly start tast-

ing burnt no matter how much you clean them. The **7Pipe** changes all that—it's the world's first lighter pipe with a glass bowl and tube built right in. No longer do we have to sacrifice flavor for portability: Simply pack the bowl, cover the carb, press the button to light it, and enjoy smooth hit after hit of your favorite herb or hash. Plus it's completely refillable, and you can adjust the flame size and slide the cover closed for storage or travel.

Price: Pipe, \$62; glass insert, \$7

Contact: 7Pipe, 650-452-6190, 7pipe.com. Retail sales: Chinahorde.com



ENJOY JARS

Transporting and storing various strains of herb is always a concern, and separate glass jars can be fragile, noisy and cumbersome. All of these problems disappear with the new **Enjoy Jars**, making them ideal for medical patients, Cannabis Cup attendees and any other connoisseurs or aficionados of bud. Water-resistant, airtight and with great odor control,

each jar has four separate chambers that are capable of holding up to 5 grams of marijuana apiece—and you can even write the names of the strains on their compartments and easily erase them later with rubbing alcohol. Lightweight, shatterproof and only 2 inches high, Enjoy Jars are a definite improvement over glass jars, providing more stealth and making for fewer worries.

Price: \$15 plus shipping/handling

Contact: Enjoy Jars, 714-875-5445, enjoyjars.com



CAMO CHAMELEONS

Our buds at Hemp HoodLamb, Doug and Adam, are constantly reinventing what it means to be a conscious cannabis consumer. Years ago, their original flagship **Hemp HoodLamb** winter jacket turned "heads" immediately with the warm fake-fur lining, rolling-paper dispenser and roomy hidden pocket. Now they've got a whole line of hip hemp clothing, including a great selection of spring and fall gear for men and women featuring their unique Arctic Camo (pictured here). Fully eco-friendly, thanks to their blend of hemp, bamboo and soy natural fibers, these garments feel and look great. I recently heard they hooked up Paul Watson from *Whale Wars* with a bulletproof HoodLamb. Pretty cool! Also, with a baby of my own on the way, "Daddy" Danko's excited about their new Lil' Lamb line of stuff for kids and toddlers.

Price: Various

Contact: Hemp HoodLamb Amsterdam, 31-(0)20-4945895, hoodlamb.com

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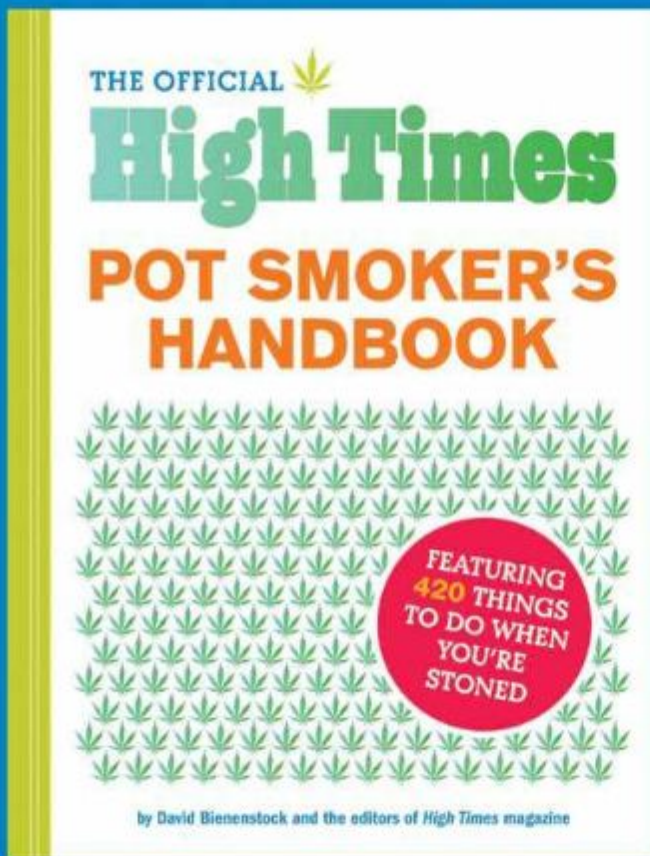
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DEAR DANKO

ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO

This grower uses one lone Supernova UFO LED light among traditional HID lighting for supplemental purposes.

CHANGING NUTRIENTS

I have a quick question. I'm growing five plants in a homemade hydroponic drip system that I made out of an 18-gallon Rubbermaid tote. The water and nutrients circulate every few hours through the drip lines. My question is about the nutrient solution and how often I should change it out. I've heard several answers, from replacing the water and nutrients weekly to replacing them monthly, and the last thing I heard was to continue adding fresh water as the level goes down until there's almost pure water in the reservoir and then changing it. So I'm a little confused here. Can you help?

Tim P.

Dear Tim,
Drip systems such as yours require a reservoir to hold the water-and-nutrient mix, which is then fed periodically to the plants' roots by a pump. As the plants grow, taking up the water and consuming the food in the solution, the liquid level in the reservoir goes down and the nutrient levels increase due to evaporation.

My recommendation is to keep some pH-balanced solution with a mild amount of nutrients (say one-quarter strength) on hand to top off your reservoir during the week, and then completely change your solution and thor-

oughly clean out the reservoir every two weeks at minimum. Keep in mind that your plants' requirements for food and water will change drastically over time, and the solution you use during the first few weeks of vegetative growth should be very different from what you use toward the end of flowering. As the plants get larger, they will require more and more nutrient solution. Always test your solution for pH (acidity/alkalinity) and ppm (parts per million of nutrient salts) and stay well within the recommended levels.

GET THE L.E.D. OUT

I've been hearing quite a bit about the new light-emitting diode (or LED) technology being used to grow marijuana. Someone told me these lights use less electricity yet provide more growth.

Sparky the Dog

Dear Sparky,
Indeed, there is much talk about LEDs these days. However, I would urge caution to ganja growers hoping to switch over to LED technology: The systems are still in the developmental stages and remain quite pricey. Even among my colleagues, there is much debate about the efficacy of LED units and whether

their use is supported by light science. A full understanding of spectrums is necessary in order to know the true efficiency of the lights when growing cannabis. For now, I recommend LEDs only for supplemental and experimental use until the technology develops further.

SKINNY GENES

Hello, I thank you for taking the time to read and respond to this message. I have a problem that has confounded me for some time and that I have not able to resolve. I have started a number of plants, and the same thing happens each time: They start out great and get up to 4 to 8 inches tall, with two sets of leaves and a third set starting, but then they fall over and die. I've even tried using supports with them, but with no success. It seems to me that the stems grow fast and tall but are too skinny.

I use good potting soil, plant the seeds approximately one-half to three-quarters of an inch deep, water according to schedule, and keep them under grow lamps for 10 to 12 hours a day. Is it something I'm doing (or not doing) that's the problem here, or is it something else? Any info you can pass along is greatly appreciated.

Wolf Spirit

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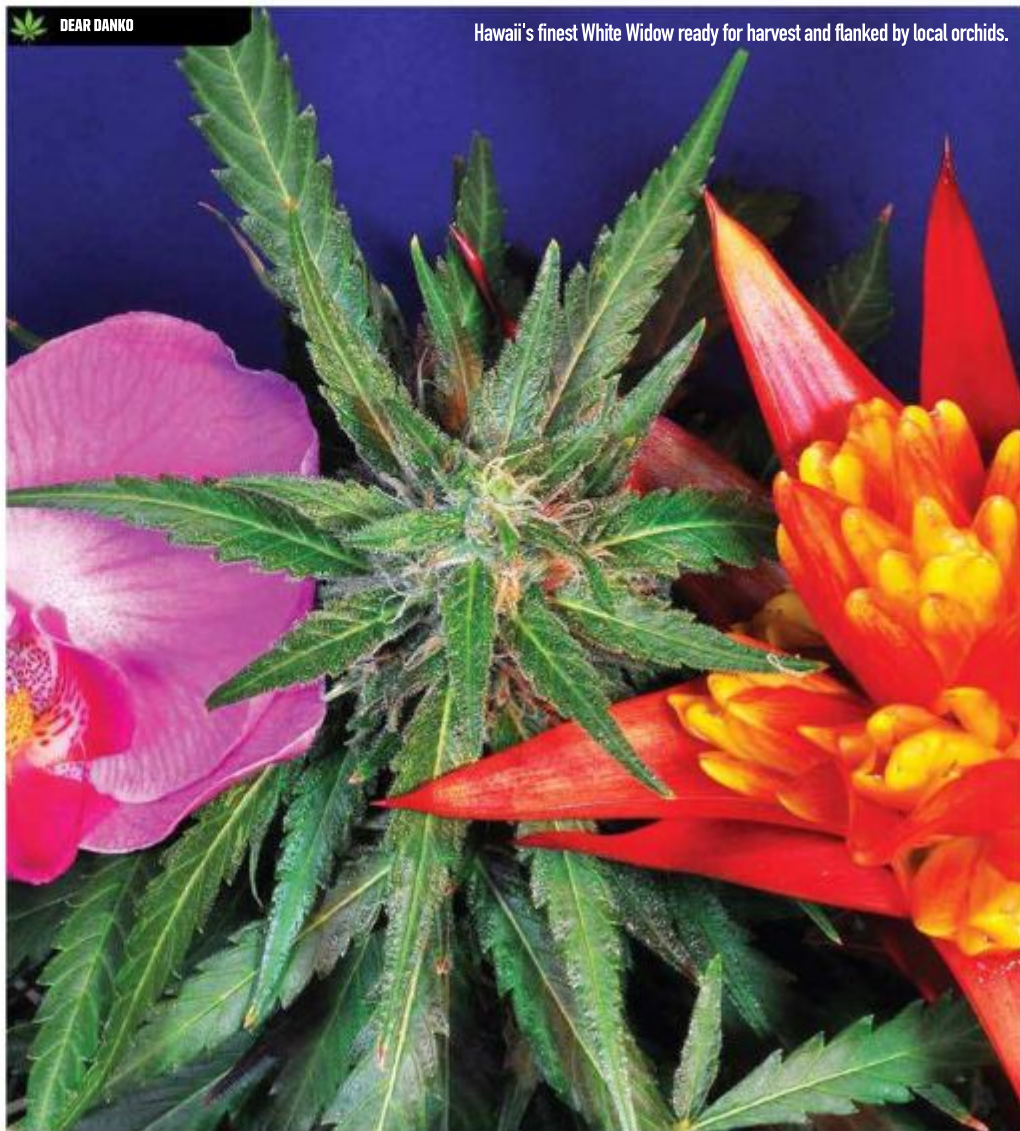
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DEAR DANKO

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Dear Wolf Spirit,
The answer is contained in your question. You write that you keep your seedlings under grow lamps for 10 to 12 hours per day. This is not enough light per day for vegetative growth, and therefore your plants are fizzling out before they get a chance to get going. Change the timer on your light so that it stays on for at least 18 hours per day during the vegetative-growth period, and make sure your plants are the proper distance away from the bulb and reflector as well. When the time comes to induce flowering, cut back the amount of light to 12 hours per day.

HEAVY HARVEST

I'm having yield issues. I have an indoor set-up with two lights: a 400-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) for flowering and a 250-watt metal halide (MH) for vegetative growth. My plants got very elongated—some were over 4 feet tall—yet they only yielded about 20 grams. I didn't do any topping, but I plan to next time. Any advice on how to keep the plants stout and dense instead of tall and sparse? Thanks!

Growing Gary

Dear GG,
Plant yields are subject to several factors, first and foremost of which is genetics. *Sativa*-dominant plants tend to grow sparse and lanky, just as you've described, so my first suggestion would be to find a more *indica*-



Cultivation expert and HIGH TIMES reporter extraordinaire Kyle Kushman holds a short and stocky Grape Ape specimen circa 2006.

dominant strain known to stay short and stocky. Plants also tend to stretch when they're too far from the light source. Be sure to keep your reflector within a foot or so of their tops and raise it as the plants grow.

Topping plants and training them helps them to keep a lower profile as well. I've seen people use small weights such as fishing sinkers tied to branches to spread them out. The important thing is to keep the branches at a manageable height and try to maintain a level canopy.

HASHED OUT

How do I grow hash?

Khooma

Dear Khooma,

Hashish isn't grown on its own; rather, it's a smokeable product made from the marijuana plant—a concentrated form of the essential oils that cover mature female cannabis flowers. As you can see in the close-up photos here in HIGH TIMES, the buds have what look like shiny stalks with bulbous heads on them covering their leaves and calyxes. These are called glandular trichomes, and they contain the essential oils, including THC, CBD, terpenes, etc. When these gland heads and stalks are removed from the rest of the plant material, the resulting extraction is referred to as hashish.

There are several ways to separate the trichomes that have been employed for centuries in the hashish-producing nations. The simplest way is to sift the dried branches of mature female plants over the proper-sized screen, then gather and press the "powder" that falls through. This process is typically referred to as a "dry sift," and it's the more traditional version of hash making that you find when traveling in Asia or the Middle East.

Ice-water extraction is a newer and quite popular method for making hash. Leaf and trim are combined with ice-cold water and agitated. The trichome heads freeze and fall through a screened bag into a series of finer-screened bags. Each level of screen represents a different grade of hash. Ice-water-extracted hash must be dried properly to remove all of the remaining water and keep it from molding. The best "bubble hash" melts when heated and forms "full-melt domes" or large, clear bubbles. Still-moist bubble hash—what I sometimes call "sizzle hash"—will pop and boil but leaves a harsh black coal ball behind in the bowl.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

I'm now growing in Colorado, and I'm wondering if there are particular strains that are best to grow in high altitudes, and also which are the ones to avoid? Miss you guys!

XOXO
Jenn

Dear Jenn,

Growing marijuana in high altitudes comes with its own unique set of requirements. A shorter flowering season coupled with harsher winds and overall conditions means you should choose strains that are both quick to finish and hardy enough to flourish in tough climates. For these reasons, I would suggest *indica*-dominant varieties such as LUI (Legends' Ultimate *Indica*), Hindu Kush or White Widow. There are many others out there as well. And depending on how high up into the mountains you plan to grow, you should consider auto-flowering varieties such as Low Ryder as well. Good luck!

GUERRILLA IN THE MIST

I'm considering planting an outdoor guerrilla garden, but my area has a consistent amount of police flyovers looking for grows. How can I find a spot that they won't?

Oli



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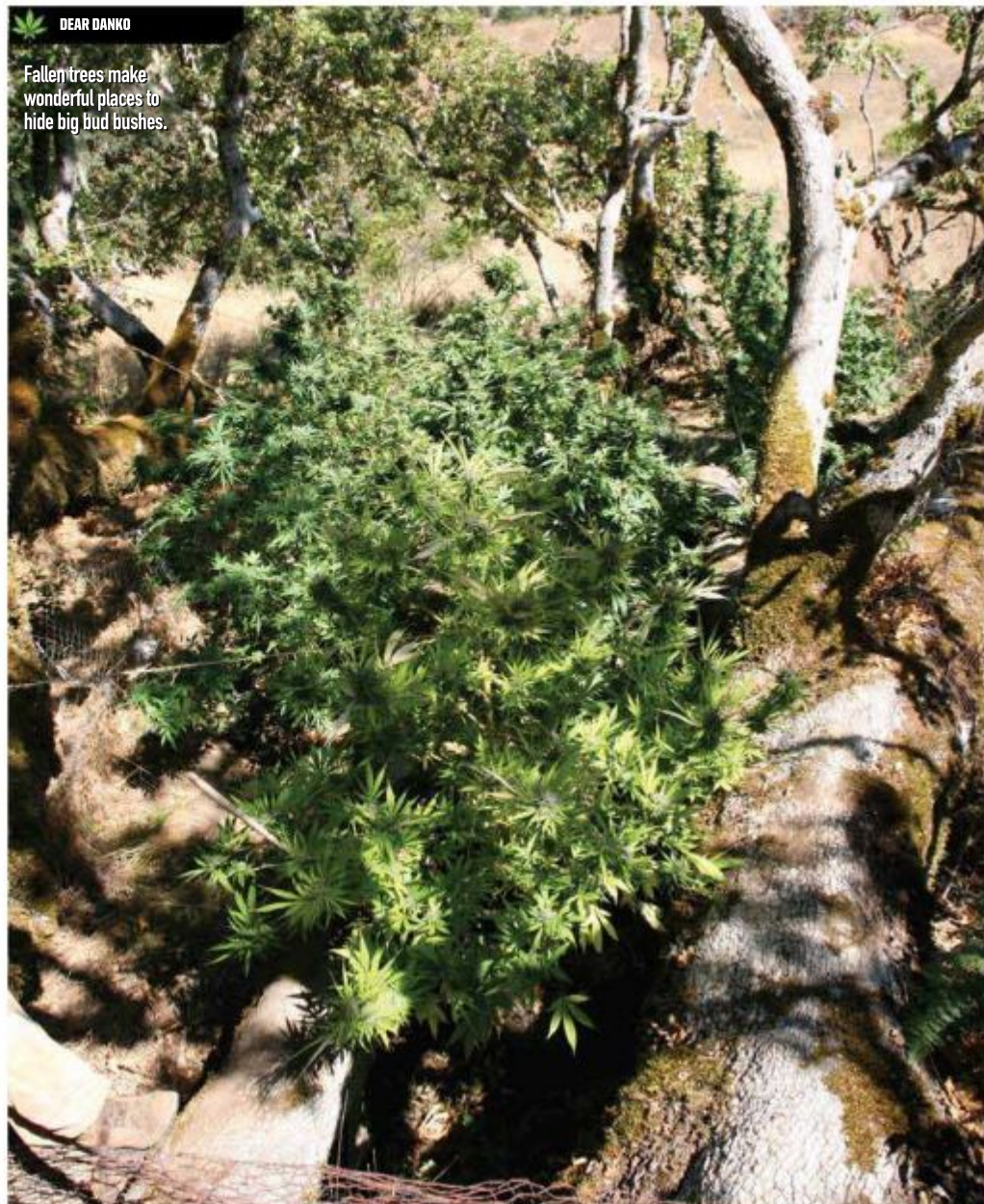
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DEAR DANKO
Fallen trees make wonderful places to hide big bud bushes.

Dear Oli,
Finding a great outdoor guerrilla spot is the toughest part of growing outside. Too much exposure will doom the project, but too little sunlight will result in wispy buds (if any!). Also, remember never to plant on someone else's private property.

Late fall/early winter is the best time to scout out a good spot. Look for a clearing on a southern-facing slope—the harder to get to, the better. Thorny bushes nearby are a plus for keeping out nosy hikers or hungry deer. Be sure to bring fishing gear, bird-watching equipment or mushroom-hunting accoutrements to complete your disguise.

The most important way to avoid detection from above is to hide all signs of human activity. This means no garbage bags, shiny metal objects or water lines running from a nearby creek or river. From the cockpit of a helicopter, it's easy to spot the telltale signs of a grow op, but much harder to detect well-hidden plants growing in their normal habitat.

After digging holes, always replace the surrounding area with leaves, twigs and any other natural camouflage to decrease the likelihood of being spotted from above. Try to approach your growing area from different routes to avoid creating a path as well.



These plants are ready to move to a secure outdoor grow spot.

AERO TRANSPLANT

I live in Washington and recently purchased an Aerogarden to help me grow my herb. I realize that the plants are really limited on such a small hydroponic system, with only seven places provided for seedlings. So here's my question: Is it possible to grow your sprouts in the Aerogarden indoors and then, when the summer weather comes, transplant them outside, giving them a huge head start? Hopefully, this would give the plants much more time to grow and mature be-

fore they begin to flower come September/October. Just wondering if this transformation could be done safely without harming the grow cycle. Please get back to me.

Pothead Pat

Dear Pat,

You are right about the limits of the Aerogarden—it's meant for herbs such as basil, oregano and cilantro and is not quite big enough to support fully grown cannabis plants. We've seen people grow out ganja in their "micro-grow" systems, but it counts more as a hobby than as a real grow op.

For your purposes, the Aerogarden will work as an incubation unit for the earlier stages of vegetative growth. Your plants will quickly outgrow the unit, but then you can transplant them outdoors with little difficulty.

Be gentle when removing the plants from the unit, taking care not to damage their sensitive roots. Once each plant is out, carefully repot it into a larger container and backfill it with your chosen growing medium. Now your plants are ready to go outside, but be sure to acclimate them to the full sun by giving them only a few hours per day to start.

DRY TIMES

Will drying weed in a dehydrator diminish its quality?

Peg

Dear Peg,

The short answer is yes; marijuana is at its best when it's dried slowly. Quickly dried buds taste harsh and "green" and don't burn properly. I can't think of any good reason to try drying your pot more quickly and definitely wouldn't recommend using a dehydrator. While extremely humid conditions may delay drying long enough for mold to set in, a dehumidifier or space heater in the room should alleviate those concerns. You've come all this way to produce your own pot, so why not go the full distance and dry and cure it properly? It's the difference between crappy, poorly burning pot and "Triple A" quality.

HARVEST TIME?

How do you know when to harvest a plant?

Old Walt

Dear Walt,

Some people tell you to harvest when the hairs are half red and half white, but I don't consider this to be an accurate system. After all, we're not growing pot for the hairs, but for the essential oils containing the THC and terpenes that give cannabis its psychoactive qualities and funky flavors.

The best way to determine when to harvest is to use a magnifying glass or loupe to examine the glandular trichome heads (i.e., the mushroom-shaped stalks with bulbous tops that you see when looking very closely at a bud's calyx). The optimal time to harvest your plants is when these telltale "crystals" have gone from clear to cloudy but before they've turned amber. This is when the essential oils are at their most potent and have not yet begun to degrade. ✨

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GROW QUIZ

HIGH TIMES MONTHLY GROW QUIZ

Calculate your cultivation HIGH-Q with our monthly grow quiz, featuring highly educational questions for beginners and experts alike.

- Which of the following plants is most closely related to cannabis?
 - hops
 - clover
 - Japanese maple
 - tomato
- Sinsemilla is _____.
 - grown in a hydroponic garden
 - a strong *indica*
 - grown without using fertilizer
 - cannabis that has never been pollinated
- Indoor growers use carbon filters primarily to eliminate:
 - the sound of generators
 - the smell of cannabis
 - light leakage
 - pest infestations
- The abbreviation "ppm" describes _____.
 - the amount of water a plant needs to thrive
 - a pest-control method
 - the concentration of nutrients in a nutrient solution
 - the optimal temperature of soil for growing
- _____ is vital during vegetative growth, but not so much during flowering.
 - potassium
 - phosphorus
 - sulfur
 - nitrogen



- BONUS QUESTIONS**
- 6) Identify this garden pest:
- spider mite
 - botrytis
 - thrip
 - aphid



- 7) This is a photograph of a _____.
- soil gardening
 - supercropping
 - cannabinoids
 - deep water culture



- 8) This plant is showing signs of _____.
- nitrogen deficiency
 - potassium deficiency
 - nitrogen toxicity
 - too much light

1. A, 2. D, 3. B, 4. C, 5. D, 6. C, 7. D, 8. A
Correct answers:

MARCH GARDEN CALENDAR

INDOORS
Enjoy the cool temperatures while you can; summer is on its way, and your indoor grow is about to get hotter, more expensive and more complicated to operate. That's why many growers take the summer months off—to avoid all the problems and expense that come with running an indoor operation during hot weather—often shutting down in favor of growing outdoors.

Before pulling the plug, consider starting your outdoor plants indoors, which gives them a huge head start, with bigger roots, bigger buds and bigger yields as the result. This is highly recommended in medical-marijuana states where "plant limits" are a consideration.

OUTDOORS

The worst of winter has passed, but March is still a little too early to plant outdoors in most locations. Instead, use this time of year for preparation and soil conditioning. Turn your soil, dig your holes a little deeper, and put your compost pile to work. By the time conditions are right for planting, your soil will be teeming with nutrients and beneficial microbes. If you're prepping a first-time outdoor plot, start by taking a good look at your location. Where does the sun rise? Where does it set? What will the surrounding plants and trees look like in July? All of these factors should be considered when you plan the layout and location of your garden. An ounce of planning can increase your yield by pounds.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Let mothers finish their mission. Every female cannabis plant has a genetically programmed mission on this earth that it wants to complete. Plants suspended in the vegetative stage for too long will start to become stressed since they're failing to propagate the species.

Spring is always a good time to take cuttings off your mother plants and plant new mothers for the upcoming season. So what should you do with the retired moms? Why not plant them outdoors and give them a chance to finish their mission? Mother plants should be very productive flowering outdoors since they have usually been topped repeatedly, making them bushy with many flowering sites and well-developed root systems. Large, developed female plants put into the ground in April have an opportunity to become true giants and produce staggering amounts of bud. 🌿

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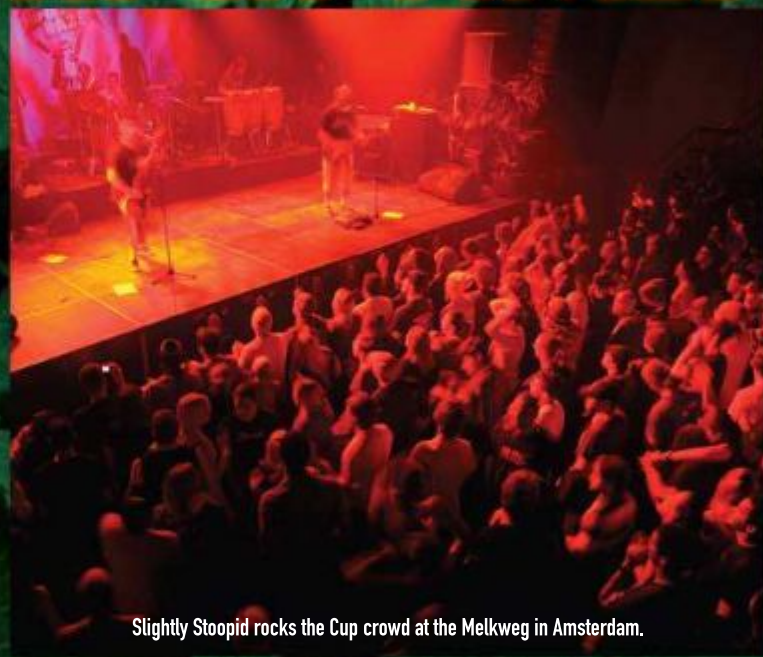
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NEXT MONTH IN HIGH TIMES



Slightly Stoopid rocks the Cup crowd at the Melkweg in Amsterdam.

DANNY DANKO

CANNABIS CUP BLOWOUT!

For 22 years (and counting), the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup has stood as the Super Bowl of Weed, inspiring stoners from around the world to travel to Amsterdam and judge the world's best pot.

This year, the Cup honored the courageous smugglers of yore who transported thousands of tons to America's pot lovers. Fittingly, the Counterculture Hall of Fame inducted Tom Forçade, the founder of HIGH TIMES and a legendary smuggler in his own right.

As always, we covered the *indicas*, *sativas* and hashish that have given Amsterdam its reputation as one of the world's premier pot metropolises. And Amsterdam wouldn't be Amsterdam without the coffeshops that have given pot smokers so much pleasure.

This year, 29 competing coffeshops entered a record-breaking number of entries for the Cup. But did you ever wonder how the judges distinguish between all those different strains? Go behind the scenes and learn how the experts pick their favorites so that you, too, can be a true cannabis connoisseur.

If you're getting ready to plant a garden, you're in the right place. Don't miss the detailed descriptions of cutting-edge cannabis genetics as our cultivation crew checks out the latest flavors released by top seed breeders. Which of these strains will be the next gotta-have high?

Also, check out our report on the Cannabis Cup Expo, where innovative new products are showcased every year by the pot industry's "ganja-preneurs." Plus, interviews with Cup musical performers.

BIG SKY HIGHS

Everybody knows about the cannabis explosion taking place in California and Colorado—but in our eagerness to cover that phenomenon, we sometimes forget about the smaller states where pot culture and cultivation are also proliferating. Senior Editor Dan Skye visits Montana to report on the buds of Big Sky Country.

OUTDOOR PLANTING GUIDE

An old Buddhist koan advises: "Spring comes, and the grass grows by itself." But when it comes to cultivating cannabis, that's only part of the story. Next month, our outdoor planting guide covers everything else you need to know to get started on the greenest garden of your life!

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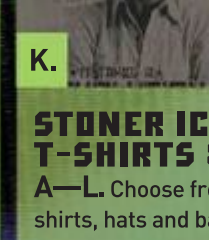
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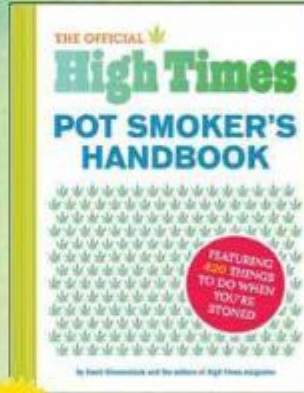
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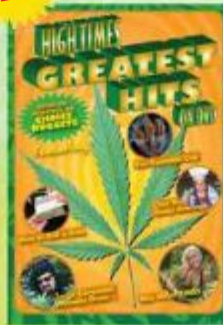
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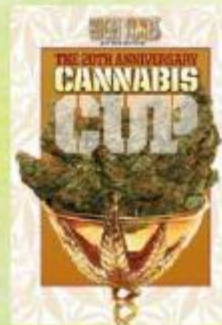
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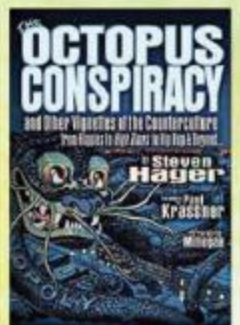
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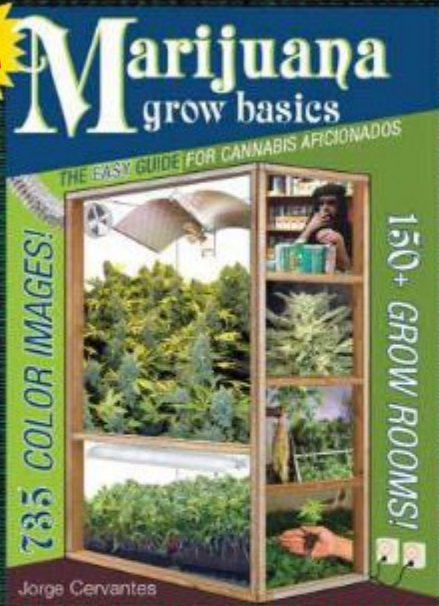


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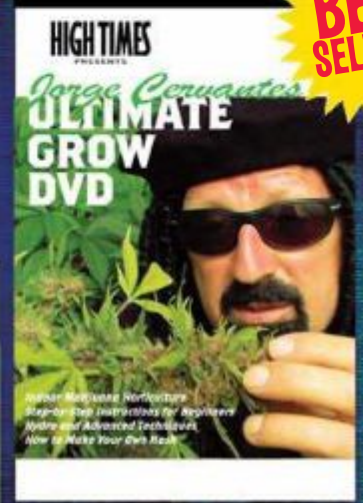
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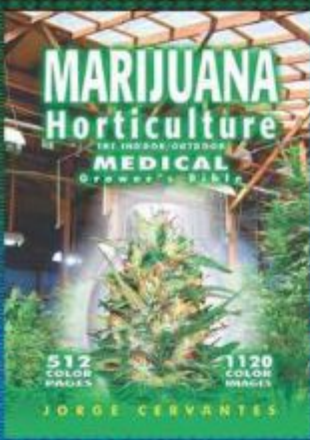
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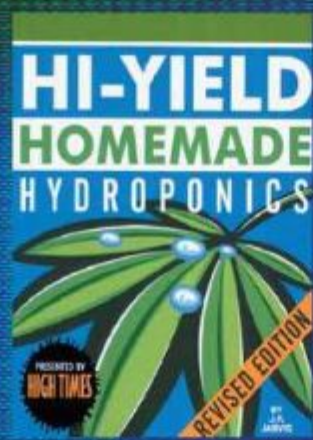
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- 15 **AAAEEEEEOOW!!** NURSE I TOLD YOU TO PRICK HIS BOIL, NOT BOIL HIS PRICK!
- 16 **TREEZY4SHIZZY**
- 17 **STONER FORUMS**
- 18 **I DO BELIEVE THE STICKY PART OF THE ROLLING PAPER IS WHAT HOLDS LIFE TOGETHER**
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- 31 **Hash Bash**
- 32 **eat a roach**
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- 34 **GEORGE DICKEL** TENNESSEE SIPPIN' WHISKEY
- 35 **Q DOES A BEAR SHIT IN THE WOODS? A NOT IN ALASKA!**
- 36 **HERE'S DENNY!**
- 37 **my kitten**
- 38 **THIS WAS THE NIGHT OF THE PARTY AND ALL THROUGH THE TOWN NO COPS WERE SITTING NOT ONE PIG AROUND THE JOINTS WERE ROLLED AND PILED IN STACKS, THAT BY MIDNITE WE'D BE STONED TO THE MAX! WE DRANK SEABISM7 AND SMOKED PENNSA RED WHILE VISIONS OF MUNCHIES DANCED THROUGH OUR HEADS, WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN A KNOCK AT THE DOOR! - WE ALL SHOUTED "PISS" AND FELL TO THE FLOOR, BUT WHAT TO OUR RED HAZY EYES SHOULD APPEAR, A POUND OF COLUMBIAN AND TWO KEGS OF BEER!! THE MAN AT THE DOOR GAVE US A SMILE, SO WE INVITED HIM IN - TO THE PARTY A WHILE! HE SAT IN A CORNER AND SEATED TO ROLL, SO WE GOT OUT A PIPE AND SPARKED UP A BOWL! WE HEARD HIM YELL, AS HE FLEW INTO THE SKY, MERRY JUANA... TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT! - Juli**
- 39 **ANY FILM STARRING CLINT EASTWOOD**
- 40 **Grasshopper, you must learn to separate the kind buds from the lumber of life!** Master James Bond Secret Agent 400

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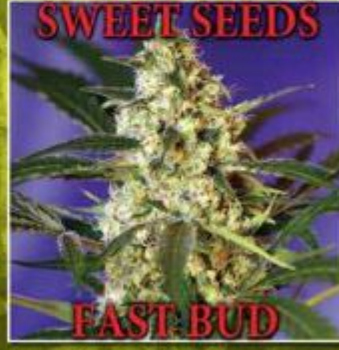
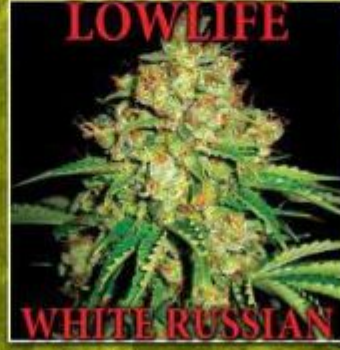
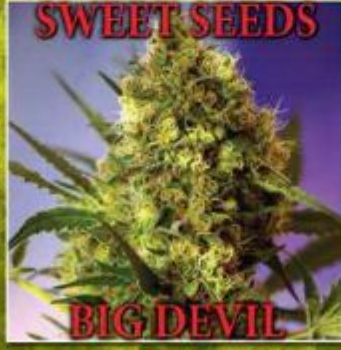
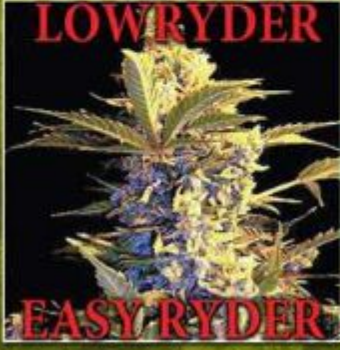
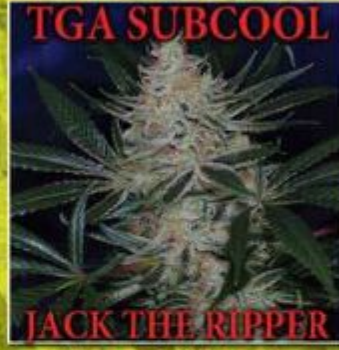
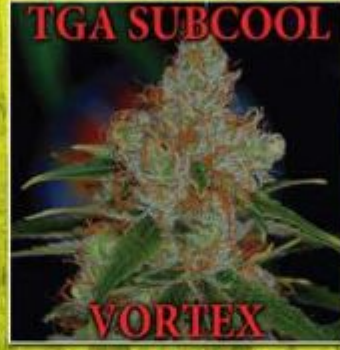
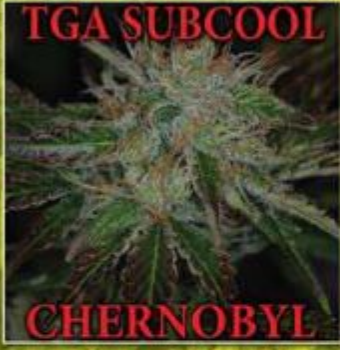
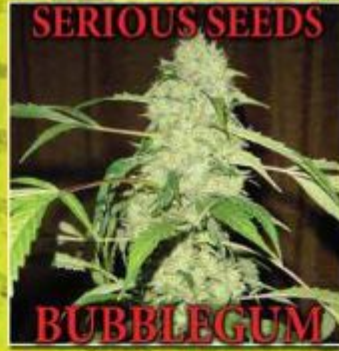
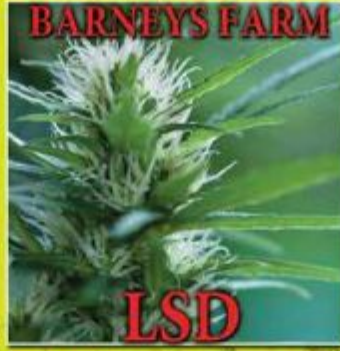
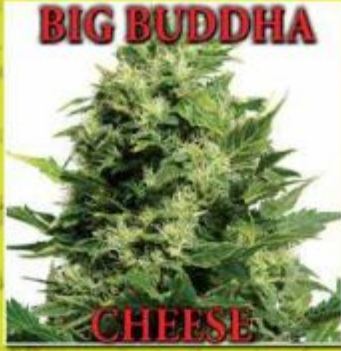
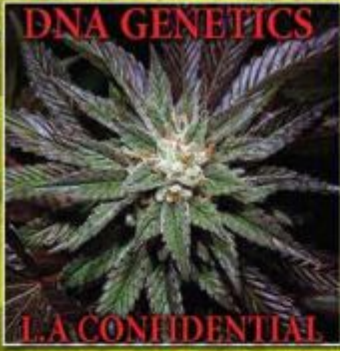
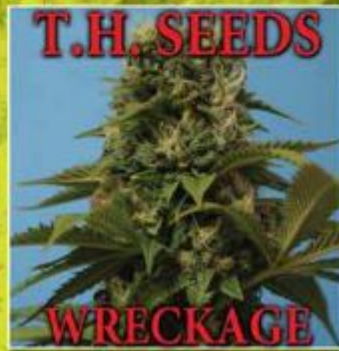
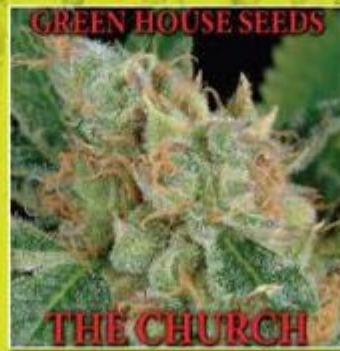
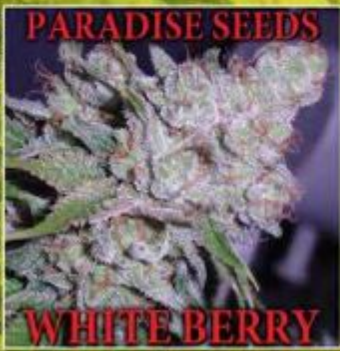
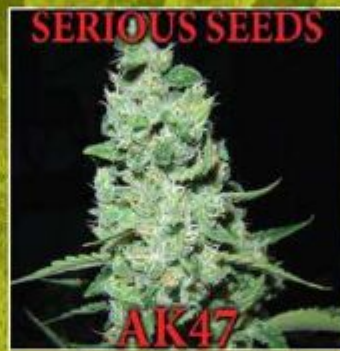
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