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APRIL 2009

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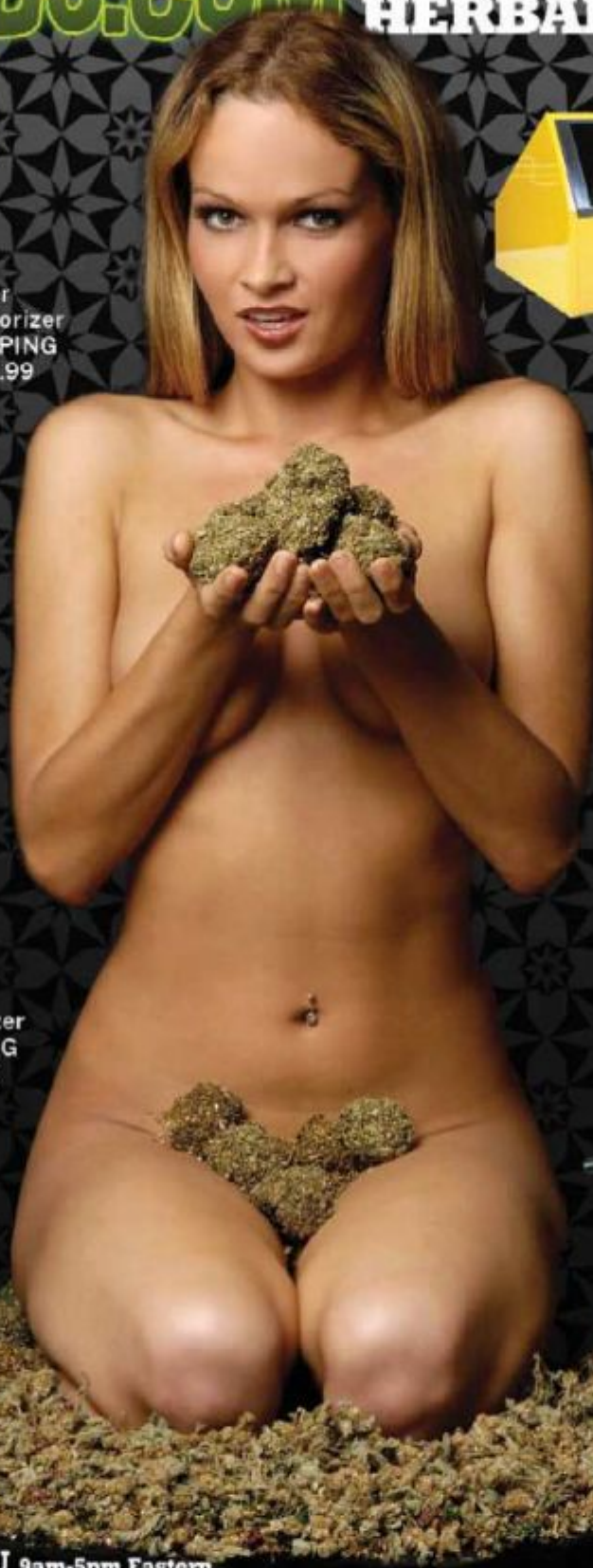
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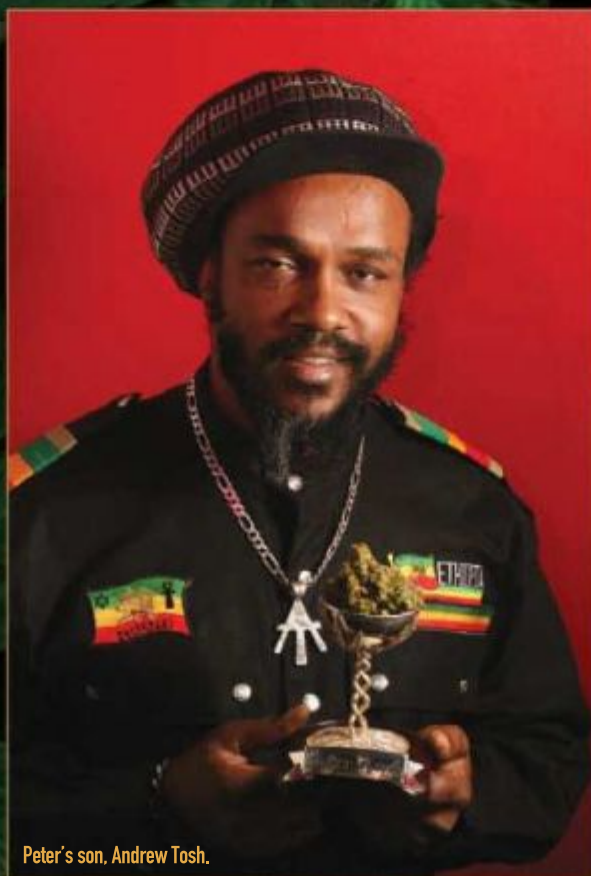
Inducting Peter Tosh

When I first came up with the idea of the Cannabis Cup, no one at HIGH TIMES—including me—ever thought the event would become as big or as famous as it has over the past 21 years. After all, for its first five years the Cup was a completely private affair, attended by a handful of judges and less than a dozen competitors. But after the 6th Cup was opened to the public and 50 people decided to attend, I began to seriously consider the necessity of making sure that this event remained sensitive to the spiritual history of cannabis.

Although numerous religions and spiritual movements have recognized cannabis as a sacrament, I found the task of creating a ceremony that embraced this history nothing short of intimidating. I spent a few weeks with Stephen Gaskin, helping edit his book, *Cannabis Spirituality*, and I was hoping that Stephen would tell me exactly how to construct a proper cannabis-related ceremony. But he refused to prescribe any specific rituals to me, instead telling me that the best ceremonies manifest naturally on their own. From that point on, I embraced improvisation as an essential element in our shows.

Ten years ago, the Counterculture Hall of Fame award was created as a means to anchor the ceremonies to the spirit of a counterculture saint. Bob Marley was our first inductee, and since then the Hall of Fame has really helped focus and guide the evolution of the Cannabis Cup. This year, Peter Tosh became the second reggae musician to be inducted, and his uncompromising spirit helped to create the greatest Cannabis Cup ever. Not only was the cannabis better than anything we've seen in the past, but the shows by Andrew Tosh, Ky-Mani Marley, Steel Pulse, Cen'C Love, Bushman, Rocker T, Leon and others were among the greatest Cup performances ever. Danny Danko captures all of the excitement in his excellent article (page 34), and Nico Escondido goes into detail on the various winning strains (page 56).

As far as I know, the Cannabis Cup is the only event in the world that celebrates cannabis spirituality—which, I'm sure we all agree, is truly a cause worth supporting. I hope to see you next year in Amsterdam.



Peter's son, Andrew Tosh.

BRIAN JAHN

Stay High,

Steven Hager

Steven Hager
Creative Director

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HIGH TIMES



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features

34 CANNABIS CUP SPECIAL

The 21st Annual HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup featured the induction of Peter Tosh into the Counterculture Hall of Fame, along with incredible music, great vibes and some of the world's best pot and hash. Senior Cultivation Editor Danny Danko breaks down our yearly coffeshop crawl in Amsterdam, while drummer G. Moses describes the Cannabis Cup Band's judging process and all the THC-soaked reggae highlights.

48 GROWING IN WONDERLAND

By Nico Escondido

Sure, it's a Cup issue, but leave it to our zany Cultivation Editor to cook up a wacky adventure whilst supposedly judging the world's finest strains. This time Nico swirls down a rabbit hole while trying to uncover the sensi side of Holland. His search pays off when he visits a harvest and finds crops of legendary buds—but as usual, there's a strange twist to this ride. Take a trip beyond and come back to a new world!

56 STRAINS OF SUCCESS

Compiled by Nico Escondido

Well, what are you waiting for?! It's a double-centerfold issue featuring all of the Cannabis Cup winners! This short guide to the strains will give you a little flavor from this year's Cup ... but do you really even read the words? Nah, just drool over the buds—we all do it. Get going.

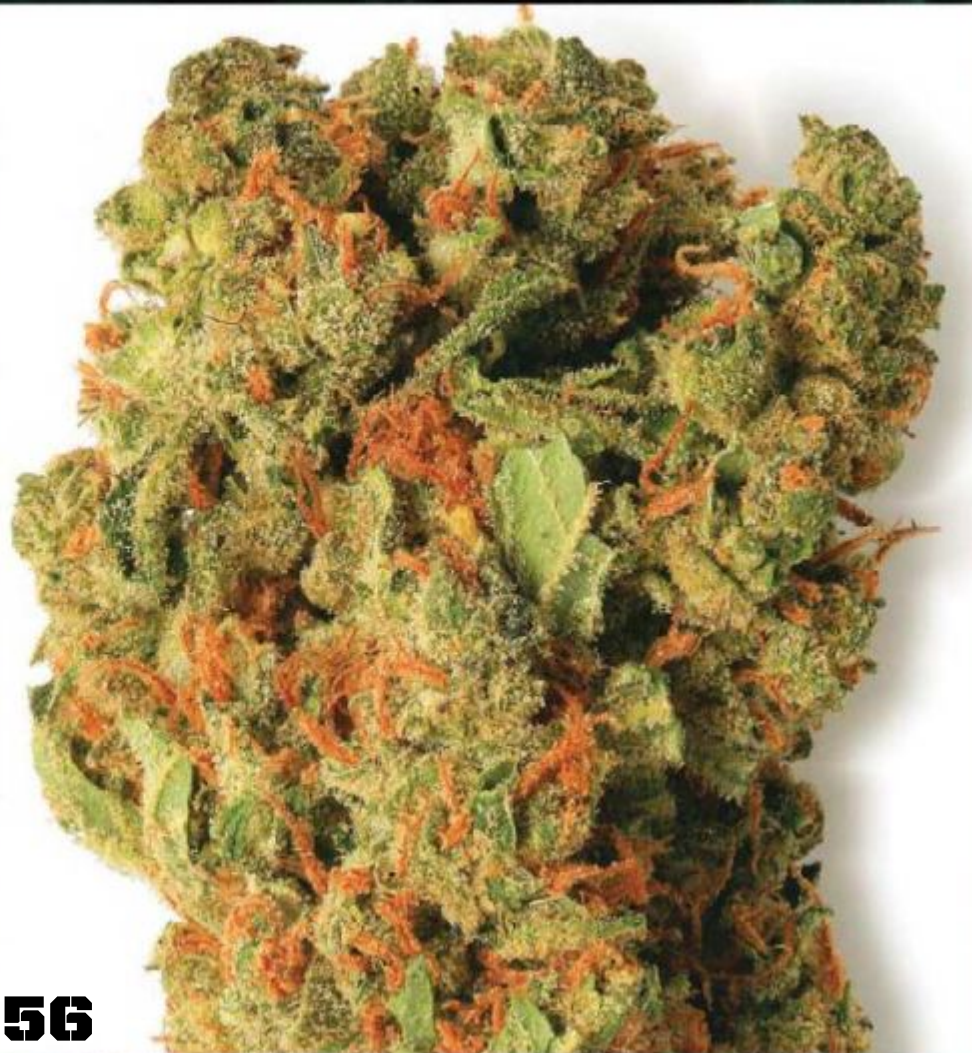
64 STONER SNOWBOARDING 101

Cannabis Correspondent Big Croppa hits the slopes and the bowl with professional snowboarder Mark "Deadlung" Edlund and visits some legendary mountainside "smoke shacks" where those in the know can rest up and puff down.

72 THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW: KINKY FRIEDMAN

By David Bienenstock

Saddle up for a Texas-sized chat with the former chess prodigy and country crooner turned best-selling author and past (and future?) candidate for governor. Oh, by the way, if ever Kinky wins, weed will be legal in the Lone Star State.



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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

Eddie Bravo & Joe Rogan vaporize; Ancient Chinese secret; Straight vs. Stoned; Teens & drugs; CA pot burning; *National Lampoon's Stoned Age*; 420 stash hat; Bamboo bliss; Plastic suit; Show-buzz; CIA cover-up; Hemp Down Under; Cheesy Swiss decision; Bolivia kicks out DEA; Whizzinator bust; Cannabis Cup Expo 2008; Devin the Dude; Reviews; Almost Infamous; Vaporella; Miss HIGH TIMES, Brain Damage Control.

81 growworld

EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO
Pix of the Crop; Cannabis Clinic; Munchies; Normalizer; Freedom Fighter of the Month; Ask Dr. Mitch; Super Simple Cloning by Jef Tek; Jorge's Rx and April Garden Calendar by Jorge Cervantes.

110 next month

116 pot 40

COVER: KENT SEA STRAIN: SUPER LEMON HAZE
CENTERFOLD: BRIAN JAHN STRAIN: ASSORTED

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HEY STONER LADIES!

As a young female college student in Boston, I find that there are a vast number of girls who smoke. We are a large, untapped stoner population and often I feel as if we have to hide our inclination (at least other people want us to) or not talk about it. But I am a proud plane flyer and other people's shit doesn't bother me. Still it is a hard road when you think that some guys might be turned off or that sometimes girls don't have the resources to really explore pot use or the awesome effects. Plus, there is a silent epidemic of girls who do not know how to roll. Silent but deadly. So we need to remedy this and HIGH TIMES should show us more love. I know you have featured us before but we need a greater voice and information directed at us.

Cozy Malone

JAMES FRANCO'S FUNNY

Just picked up the January '09 mag. Nice choice on pothead of the year. James is a really cool guy. I just wanted to give you a heads up about some video he did. Something for some company called WonderGlen. Just checked the site out and it's a stoner's paradise. Funny shit all around. Thought you and your readers might like it. Wonderglen.com.

Tay

21ST CANNABIS CUP

I went to the Cup. I was a judge and all, but I was so damned stoned that I forgot to vote. Glad to know my vote would have gone to Super Lemon Haze though. But still, the judge's pass was worth it. It's like a fat VIP ticket to everything at the Cannabis Cup.

Tito

THMQ TIPS

Just wanted to thank you and the person from Coplay, PA who posted their top strains in THMQ. I also live near Allentown PA, and I, too, was disgusted to see "A-Town Brown" make it into THMQ. So, if you get a chance, print this and let that person know I, and others, appreciate his/her telling the world that eastern Pennsylvania pot isn't trash.

Phil

HANDY HANDBOOK FOR THE HEAD

I was reading the HIGH TIMES *Pot Smoker's Handbook* last night (which is very interesting BTW. Thanks for the great read!) and I loved the first chapter about your history and Tom Forçade. It inspired me and now I want to be a social activist in the movement to spread the joys and understanding of the amazing herb.

Seattle Smoker



MEDICAL WOES

I recently started reading HT again after about a 10 year hiatus. The first issue I remember was the one with the story about tripping with Groucho Marx, sometime in the '70's. But I digress. I like your new section on medical pot, and that's the reason I am writing.

You talk about how having a card allows you to grow. But there's something I think people should realize too. That is that if

they are on any federal program—especially Section-8 housing assistance—if you get caught growing [using too, for that matter. But that's not as easy to get caught doing], you can lose your aid. I know that this kinda goes without saying seeing that pot is still illegal on a federal level. But all the same, I think it's a good idea to actually point it out.

H. Sanmyer

SCRATCH & SNIFF HIGHS

I'm a long-time reader who is currently serving time in the system. So to speak.... I'm on probation and I won't be able to partake in the herb in any form other than visual for a while. But it struck me over the past years thumbing through pages upon pages of beautiful buds— would it be possible to use magazine inserts with smells of the dank that you're already showing? Including the scent of the centerfolds in your issues? That would certainly please those of us with access to less quality herb or none at all, as in my case. Just a thought.

xeno

ACTIVE ACTIVIST

I'm a student at Valdosta State University in Georgia, and I would like to thank you for all the information on the Internet and in the magazine. I think it's great that you have information on activism. It's important for people to start realizing the truth and for them to stop eating up all the propaganda our government unfortunately feeds us. There's a great book that I'm in the middle of reading by Mike Gray, called *Drug Crazy: How We Got Into This Mess and How We Can Get Out*. I truly suggest reading it, it's great. I hope all continues going well for all of you in the company. I hope you all have a great year and I wish for the best for all of you. Keep up the great work!

Thanks.
Javier

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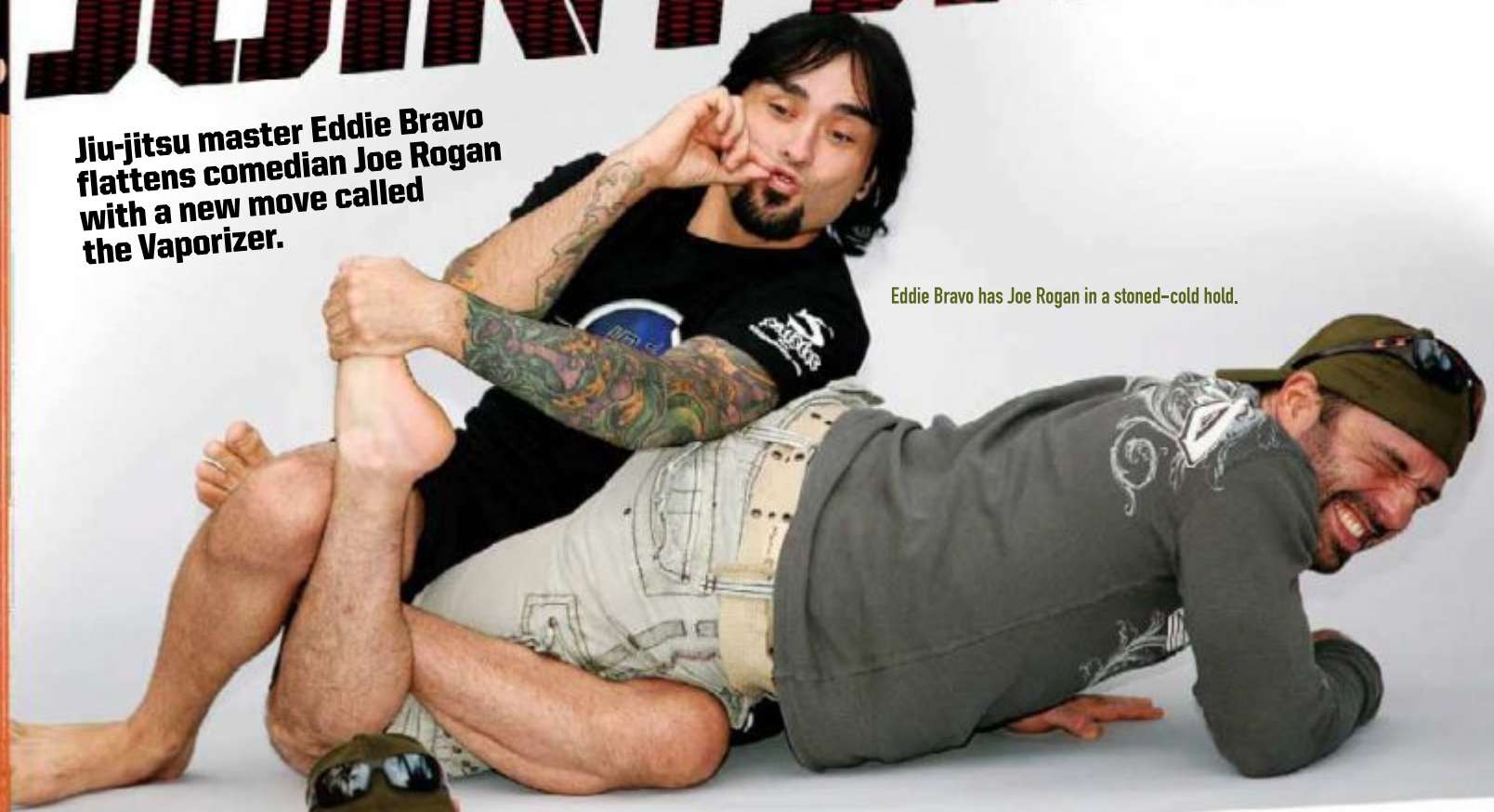
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JOINT-JITSU

Jiu-jitsu master Eddie Bravo flattens comedian Joe Rogan with a new move called the Vaporizer.

Eddie Bravo has Joe Rogan in a stoned-cold hold.



Joe warms up to be Eddie's victim.



quires a great deal of flexibility, especially when you're fighting from your back.

The move that Eddie dubbed the Vaporizer was named for its ability to change the world-view of an opponent instantly, but it also pays homage to his outspoken affinity for marijuana. "Weed reveals your soul," he stated in his HT interview (Nov. '07). "It's going to put yourself in touch with who you are and help you express it."

The world of mixed martial arts has eagerly embraced Eddie's techniques, and Rogan—a UFC commentator who also trains with Eddie and appears in fight photos in his book, *Mastering the Rubber Guard*—calls the style "a completely separate branch of the jiu-jitsu tree, the best for mixed martial arts."

Needless to say, medical marijuana is highly recommended for post-training recovery sessions. ✦

Read Eddie's books, *Mastering the Rubber Guard* (also available on DVD) and *Mastering the Twister*. Visit 10thplanetjj.com.

Post-training tokes are highly recommended.



Joe Rogan is grimacing, clearly in pain.

"It's a good position to be in—on your back, in control and maybe smokin' a joint," says Eddie Bravo, the jiu-jitsu legend. "You control the guy, take him out, maybe break his leg. Of course, in the sport, you make him tap out."

"Tapping out" is the act of slapping the floor with your hand, a signal to your opponent that you are in severe pain and would like to refrain from continuing the fight, please. "The Vaporizer is the most brutal leg lock in my system," Eddie continues. "It's a real bad spot for your legs."

Joe seems to agree, but what he says is unintelligible. However, he does seem vaporized.

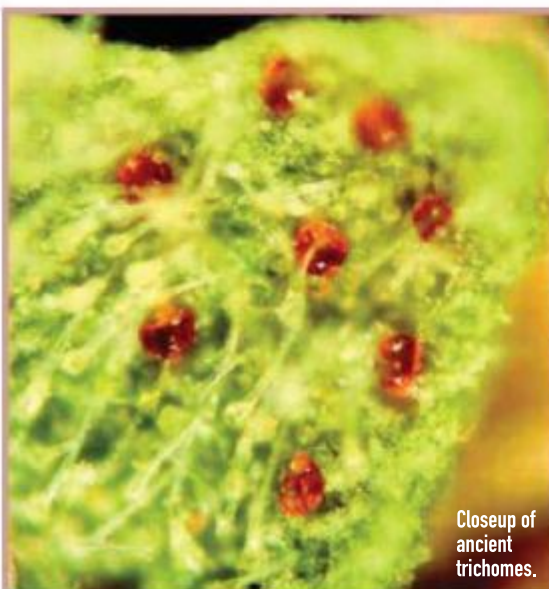
One of the world's foremost jiu-jitsu masters, Eddie is responsible for developing a controversial but undeniably effective system of clinches, hooks and head controls. His system is called 10th Planet Jiu-Jitsu: It re-

DOPE MENACE

The same rank absurdity that's spewed from the mouths of politicians for the last three-quarters of a century to justify the illegality of cannabis has also served as bait for publishers to hawk pulp fiction. Stephen J. Gertz has edited *Dope Menace: The Sensational World of Drug Paperbacks 1900-1975* (Feral House, \$24.95), a fascinating collection of lurid covers such as *Marijuana Murder*, *Reefer Girl*, and *Reefer Club*, accompanied by illustrations of near-naked dames in the throes of "marijuana addiction" who fall prey to homosexuality and child orgies.



Whatever happened to the stoner vixens of yesteryear?



Closeup of ancient trichomes.



This 2,700-year-old seed is now illegal.



Scientists sample the stash.

GANJA KHAN

In northwestern China, the oldest stash ever discovered—789 grams of pot, estimated to be 2,700 years old—was found buried alongside what researchers believe are the remains of a 45-year-old shaman. A paper published in the *Journal of Experimental Botany* flatly states that the cannabis was "cultivated for psychoactive purposes" rather than fiber. Scientists who studied the pot said that it was still green but had no odor.

Archaeologists say that it was common practice to stock a tomb with cool stuff needed for one's afterlife. The burial site yielded a harp, bridles and archery equipment in addition to the pot. But 789 grams? That's only a pound and a half—which means that eternity is going to *feel* like an eternity.

FLAMES OF FUTILITY



California's joint state and federal anti-pot task force, known as CAMP (Campaign Against Marijuana Growing), claims to have burned more pot plants than ever before in 2008. Just over 2.9 million plants were destroyed, with an estimated worth of approximately \$11.6 billion (though only 143 people were arrested). The bulk of the seizures were made in the Central Valley and Northern California.

CAMP said that its haul would have been larger had it not been for the forest fires that raged throughout the region last summer. Cali-

fornians won't soon forget the conduct of CAMP and the DEA in June: As their homes and property burned, the Feds ignored the devastation and launched Operation Southern Sweep, a series of raids on outdoor gardens situated in Humboldt and Mendocino counties.

STRAIGHT VS. STONED

Our chart demonstrates the power of your point of view!

STRAIGHT ARM

In football, a ball carrier deflects would-be tacklers by shoving them away—often putting his hand through their face-mask, thereby gouging eyes or causing facial disfigurement.

STRAIGHT FLUSH

Five consecutive cards of the same suit are always a winning hand in poker. Usually achieved by cheating.

STRAITJACKET

Apparel featuring extra-long sleeves, usually worn in a padded suite at the Hotel Silly.

STRAIGHT SHOOTER

Refers to someone who's honest and forthright, doesn't cheat, and is absent of guile. We're still waiting to meet this person.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW

The path recommended for people who want to avoid problems with the authorities and eventually get into heaven.

STRAIGHT AHEAD

A direction given to someone who has no idea where they're going.

STRAIGHT MAN

The dude who sets up the jokes for his funny partner (i.e., Bud Abbott, Dean Martin, Dick Smothers). Usually resents the shit out of the funny guy because he's more famous.

STONED ARM

This phenomenon occurs when a stoner passes out on a couch with one arm bent obliquely under his torso. Delivers the sensation of a useless appendage—very trippy!

STONED FLUSH

When the police are knocking down your door, a toilet will serve you better than an attorney. We suggest a new model whose tank doesn't take five minutes to refill.

STONED JACKET

Apparel featuring hidden stash pockets, worn by the modern stoner to confound cops.

STONED SHOOTER

Token' on a basketball court may improve your aim—but if it's a gun in your hand, we prefer you move to a different state.

STONED AND NARROW

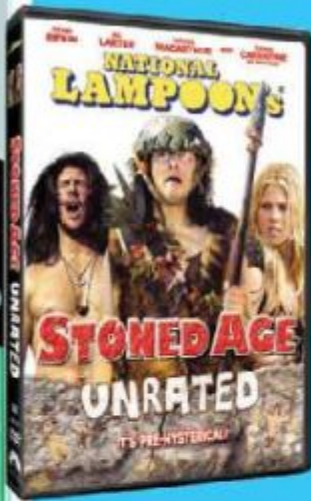
One of those skinny people who never, ever get the munchies. Or: someone who is just as moronic stoned as they are straight.

STONED AHEAD

A redundancy: If you're stoned, then you're ahead.

STONED MAN

Incredibly, a magical transformation occurs when a straight man takes a hard toke. Suddenly, the straight man is a stoned man. Wow.



NATIONAL LAMPOON'S STONED AGE

Okay, here's the story. You are home. You don't want to think. You are looking for mindless entertainment.

Eureka! You've found it.

National Lampoon's Stoned Age is a far cry from *Citizen Kane*, but it's pretty entertaining. In fact, it's fair to call it cinematic trash of the highest order—an ideal companion in your quest to filter out reality at the end of the day. It's the tale of a caveman who's got great ideas for moving mankind forward, like the toothbrush, the ladder and pants. Unfortunately, his tribe is not impressed. Much mayhem ensues.

Often gross yet never grotesque, *National Lampoon's Stoned Age* aims straight for the id and diddles it handily. The film stars Adam Rifkin (who also wrote and directed), plus Ali Larter, David Carradine and Ron Jeremy.

Available on DVD from Paramount Home Entertainment.

PHAT IN THE HAT

Stoners often complain about short-term memory loss—they just can't keep things in their head! So why not keep things *on* your head instead?

That's the concept behind the Jack Herer 420 Hat, a dapper and comfortable piece of headgear that comes in four different styles, each designed with a secret stash pocket to keep your traveling items secure. Our favorite is the black hemp model, which resembles one of those nautical-type baseball caps decorated with embroidery and sailing crests. But take a closer look: There are no anchors in the emblem, just "420" rendered with a flourish. And the discreet embroidery actually reads: "Anytime, Anywhere."

Visit 420hemponline.com.

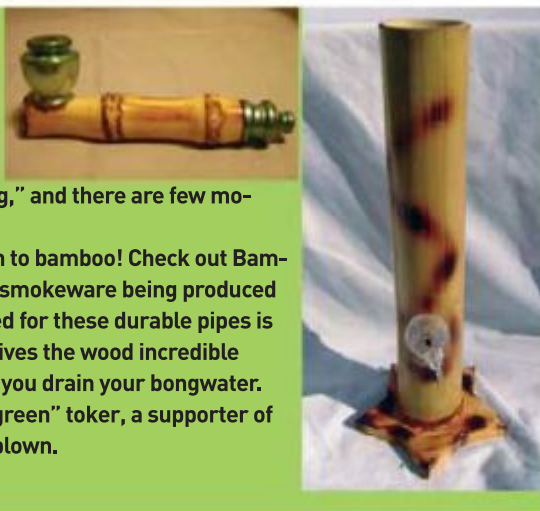


GET BAMBOO-ZLED!

We've all been there: One moment of carelessness—or maybe just plain clumsiness—and suddenly your best friend is shattered into a million pieces. It's called "bong-busting," and there are few moments in the stoner world more tragic.

But there's no reason to boo-hoo—switch to bamboo! Check out Bamboo Bliss, a new line of high-quality bamboo smokeware being produced by Homegrown Innovations. The bamboo used for these durable pipes is put through a high-tech curing system that gives the wood incredible strength—and no moisture is retained when you drain your bongwater. A Bamboo Bliss piece will also make you a "green" toker, a supporter of pipes and bongs that are grown rather than blown.

Visit bamboobliss.net.



FASHIONABLE TRASH

Rather than saving up all your soda bottles for recycling, only to receive mere nickels in return, wouldn't you rather get something of value—like your wardrobe?

Bagir, makers of EcoGir, is an Israeli-based company that has designed a sensational line of hip, eco-friendly fashions for dudes. The EcoGir recycled blazer got our attention: It's made from 100 percent post-consumer waste, including 30 plastic bottles reformatted

into a plastic fiber that can be woven into fabric, similar to textiles like polyester or nylon.

Ain't life strange? A trash suit is acceptable, but a hemp suit isn't.

Visit bagir.com.

this month in

SHOWBUZZ



Pam busts loose.

O-BUMMER!

The election of Barack Obama motivated Baywatch legend Pam Anderson to write a letter to the new Prez and make a few suggestions. She asked Obama to consider releasing Native American

political prisoner Leonard Peltier. She also advocated marijuana legalization and hemp farming, as well as vegetarianism. Anderson also stressed the need for a new, peaceful approach to solving world problems. She's just one of the millions of Americans hoping for change, especially on the marijuana front. In December, Americans discovered that Obama's plans are really just business as usual.

Change.gov, the official website of the Obama administration, asked the public to provide them with a list of the top public policy questions facing America. Visitors to the site were then asked to vote on which questions should be a priority for the new administration. More than 10,000 citizens cast votes on over 7,300 proposed questions. The top question for the new President: "Will you consider legalizing marijuana so that the government can regulate it, tax it, put age limits on it, and create millions of new jobs and create a billion-dollar industry right here in the US?"

The answer? "President-elect Obama is not in favor of the legalization of marijuana."

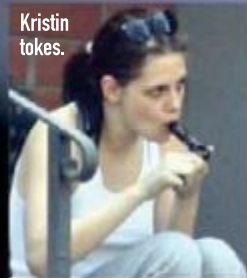
The new administration could not articulate even one legitimate reason why we should continue to criminalize victimless behavior that even the new President admits to have engaged in. In other words, America's 44th President, like most politicians, is more comfortable defining himself and tens of millions of otherwise law-abiding Americans as criminals, rather than publicly acknowledging the fact that marijuana is a safer drug than alcohol.

Change we can believe in? Hardly.

HIGH STOOP

Kristin Stewart, whose vampire flick *Twilight* lit up the box office last fall, was spotted on her doorstep in LA sharing a pipe with a friend. Immediately, entertainment blogs speculated whether the 18-year-old actress had hurt her chances for future success in Hollywood.

But why would that be? She's not driving drunk, she's not doing blow, she's still got her undies on, and she's not acting like an asshole in public. ✨



Kristin tokes.

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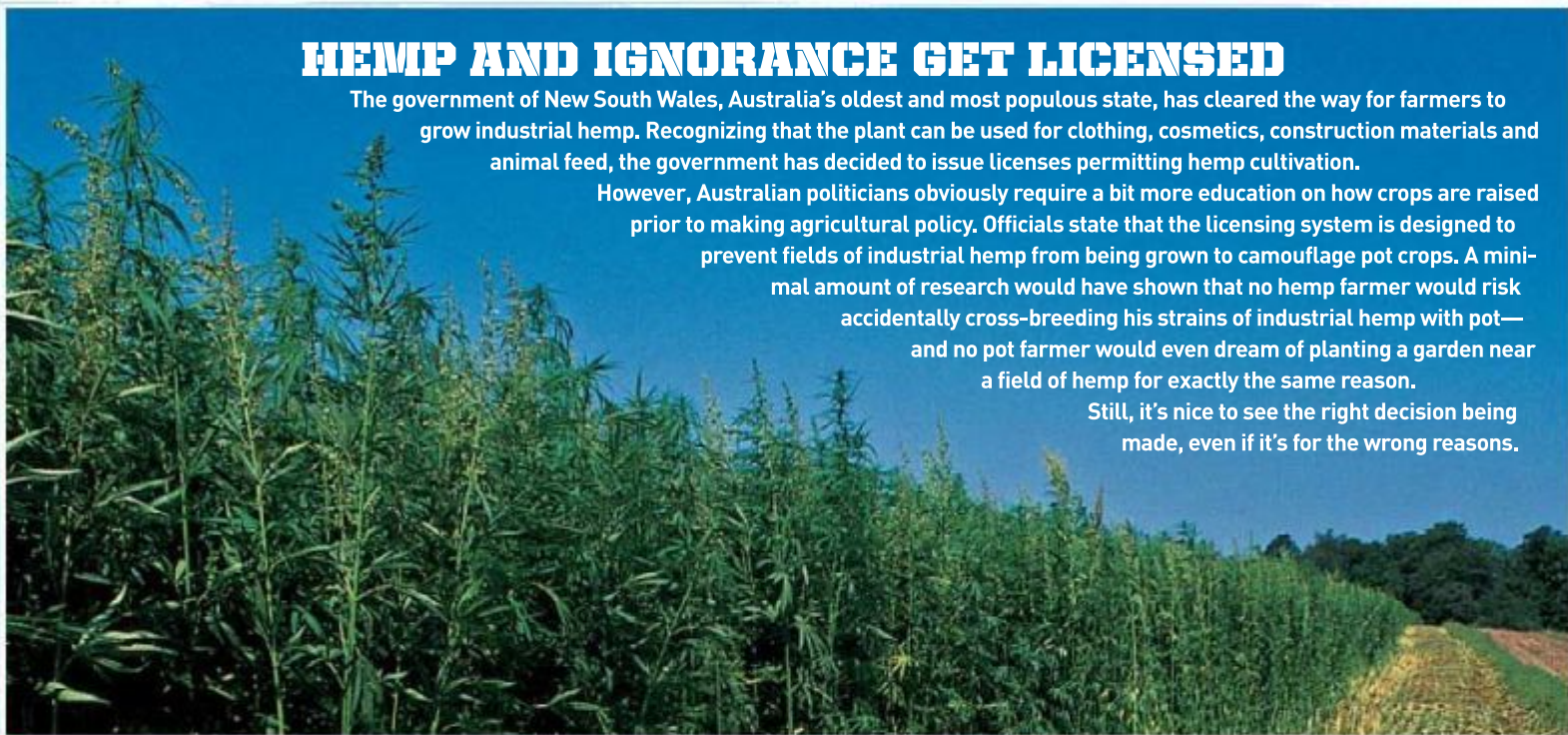
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HEMP AND IGNORANCE GET LICENSED

The government of New South Wales, Australia's oldest and most populous state, has cleared the way for farmers to grow industrial hemp. Recognizing that the plant can be used for clothing, cosmetics, construction materials and animal feed, the government has decided to issue licenses permitting hemp cultivation.

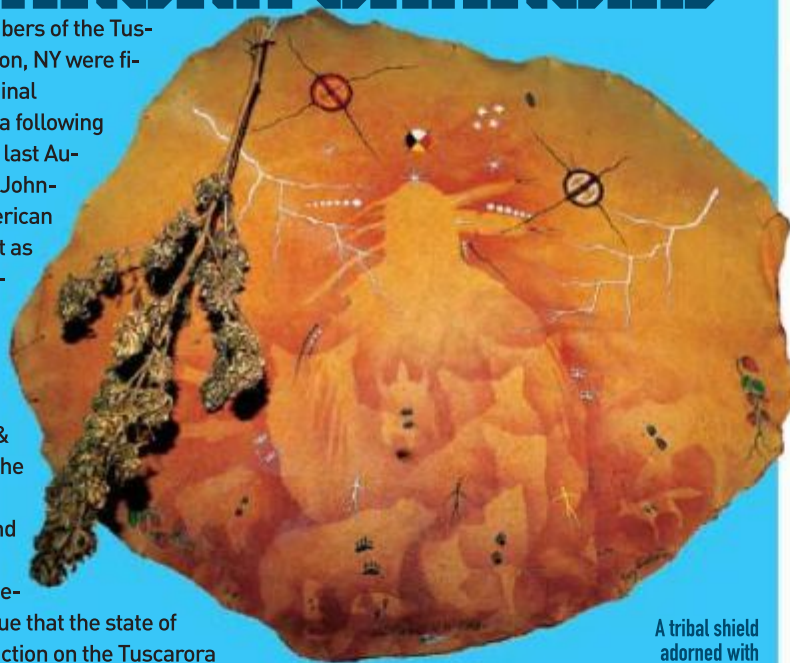
However, Australian politicians obviously require a bit more education on how crops are raised prior to making agricultural policy. Officials state that the licensing system is designed to prevent fields of industrial hemp from being grown to camouflage pot crops. A minimal amount of research would have shown that no hemp farmer would risk accidentally cross-breeding his strains of industrial hemp with pot—and no pot farmer would even dream of planting a garden near a field of hemp for exactly the same reason.

Still, it's nice to see the right decision being made, even if it's for the wrong reasons.



TUSCARORA CHARGED

In December, two members of the Tuscarora Nation in Lewiston, NY were finally charged with criminal possession of marijuana following the seizure of 43 plants last August. Crandy and Tracy Johnson are two Native American brothers who claim that as Tuscarora—which literally translates to "people of the hemp"—it is their right as members of a sovereign nation to grow cannabis ("Spirit & Smoke," Mar. '09 HT). The Johnsons have pleaded not guilty and will defend themselves on the grounds of religious freedom. They will also argue that the state of New York has no jurisdiction on the Tuscarora Indian reservation.



A tribal shield adorned with cannabis.



Examining the wreckage of a CIA blunder.

THE CIA'S ITCHY TRIGGER FINGER

In April 2001, the plane of a US missionary family was shot down over northeastern Peru after being misidentified as a drug-trafficking aircraft by CIA anti-drug forces operating in the country. Veronica "Roni" Bowers and her infant daughter were both killed, and the pilot, Kevin Donaldson, was seriously injured. Bowers's husband Jim, 38, and son Cory, 7, were not harmed.

Almost immediately after the incident, CIA officials characterized it as an isolated aberration in an otherwise well-run program. Not quite, it now turns out: The joint US-Peruvian campaign to halt airborne drug smugglers has resulted in the downing of at least 10 other aircraft without proper warnings. A new report from CIA Inspector General John Helgerson states that the agency routinely disregarded "required intercept procedures," which led to an undisclosed number of private flights being shot down within two to three minutes after being sighted by Peruvian fighters.

The agency withheld details of its errors in order to avoid embarrassing the Bush administration—a practice tantamount to obstruction of justice, according to Representative Peter Hoekstra, the ranking Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, whose Michigan district includes the slain woman's hometown. "These are the most serious and substantial allegations of wrongdoing I've seen in my time on the committee," he declared.—Preston Peet

SWISS MISS

In Switzerland, voters were recently faced with two drug-policy proposals. In November, a referendum allowing heroin addicts to obtain the drug by prescription was passed with overwhelming public support (68 percent!)—but by a similar margin (63 to 37 percent), those same democratic dice rolled *against* cannabis decriminalization.

Polls had predicted an easy win for the heroin referendum but a dead heat on the cannabis question. The ultimate bogeymen in the debate seemed to be adventurous, open-minded internationalists—"drug tourists," as the Swiss government calls us. Swiss cannabis activists told reporters they were saddened that their fellow citizens had succumbed to such fearmongering. Green Party MP Jo Lang pointed out that as a result of the vote, 600,000 people would be criminalized for consuming a drug that is safer than alcohol.

In light of the vote, some counterintuitive thinking may be necessary. If the Swiss people actually believe that cannabis is dangerous and its users a public menace, then perhaps the next move should be to convince them that marijuana is as devastatingly addictive as heroin. That way, all you'll need is a prescription.—Brendan Hogan



Swiss voters choose needles over nugs.

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BCNL SUPPORTING VANCOUVER BAND **STAND DOWN**

As BC Northern Lights continues to be recognized as the industry leader in indoor gardens, they're proud to recognize two of their star employees as the leading outfit for the band Stand Down. The Vancouver based band has just released their first full length album and have since been leaving a trail blaze of smoke behind them. While on a mission to dominate the metal scene, guitarist (Justin Lacey) and vocalist (Ken Goode) dispense the same amount of energy and passion into building BCNL's indoor gardens as they do while they're onstage. Given their volcanic rapture since the release of "Villains Parade", BC Northern Lights is excited to be a part of Stand Down's success. Buy the album on iTunes Mutherfucker!

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Cee-Lo Green's plaintive songs and haunting voice blessed the stage.



Ky-Mani Marley's smoking set at the Greenhouse Melkweg party brought the house down.

Music at the Cup

Incredible musical performances are the hallmark of every HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup. This year, musicians and singers lit up the stage in tribute to Counterculture Hall of Fame honoree Peter Tosh, and the resulting reggae and hip-hop vibes reminded every attendee that there's "one good thing about music (and marijuana) - when it hits, you feel no pain."

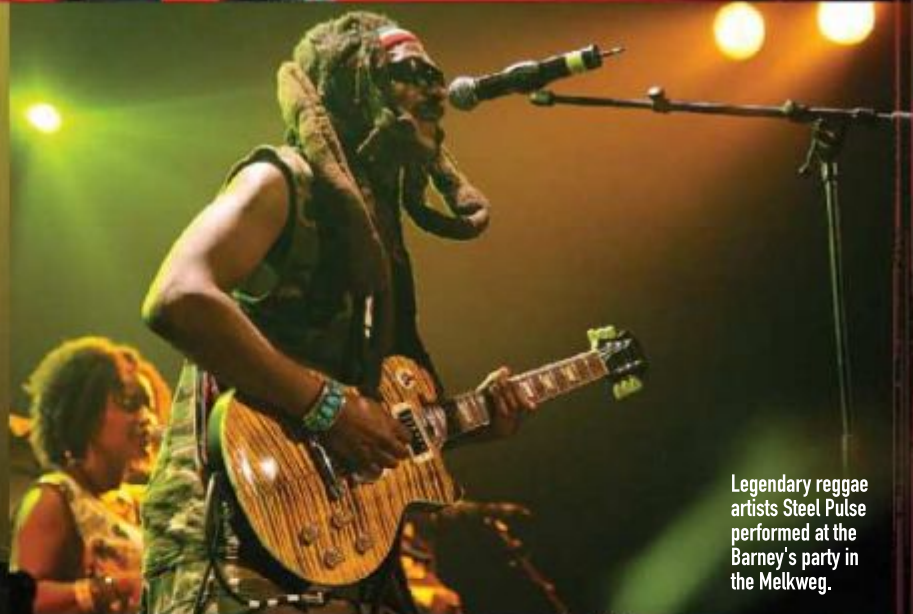


Dilated Peoples ripped it up at the DNA Genetics bash.

Bushman and the Cannabis Cup Band paid tribute to the Bush Doctor.



Andrew Tosh relaxing with a spliff before channelling his father onstage.



Legendary reggae artists Steel Pulse performed at the Barney's party in the Melkweg.

Rocker T, the conquering lion, returned triumphant.



BRIAN JAHN (4), DANNY DANKO (2)



THMQ

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.

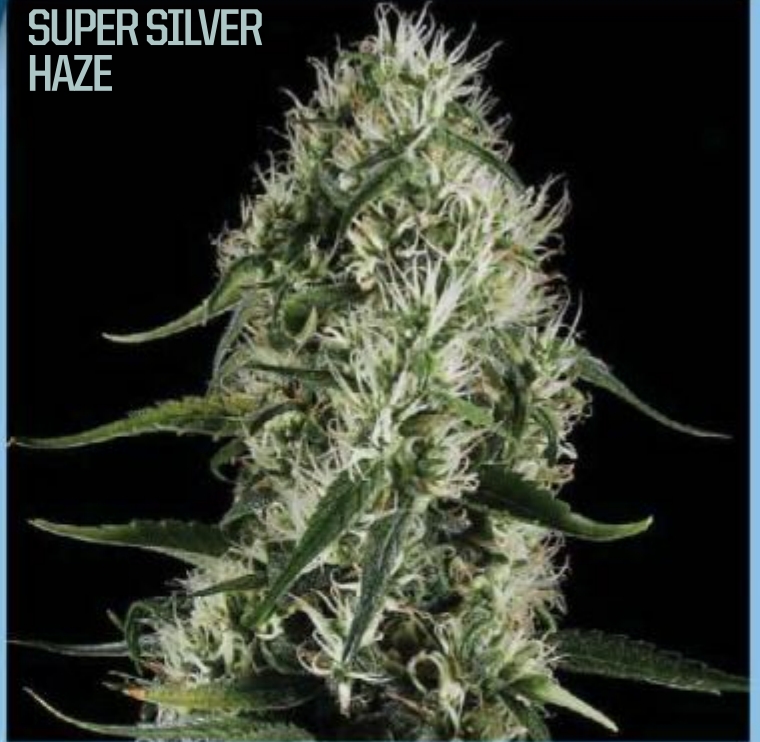
CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$375** (last month: \$391; YTD: \$381)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$455** (\$483, \$464)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$253** (\$259, \$261)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$96** (\$93, \$85)

SUPER SILVER HAZE



MARKET ANALYSIS

It appears reports of Kush's demise were greatly exaggerated. After a two-month drought, Kush regained the top spot in April as the month's most-submitted strain, narrowly beating out Diesel and Haze. Additionally, Kush eclipsed its year-to-date average price by a wide margin. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$469), Diesel (\$480), Haze (\$425), Purps (\$447) and Blueberry (\$503).

Index Watch: Despite Kush's increase in average price, every index dropped from its previous month's average with the exception of the Schwag Index, which established a new 2009 high in April.

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

AVERAGE PRICE 2009 (JAN-APRIL): KIND & KUSH



NYC Diesel - \$465

Peil City, ALABAMA

"This herb is the best I've ever been able to get my hands on. It smells like straight diesel fuel and stinks up my whole car just opening the bag."

Super Silver Haze - \$300

Sacramento, CALIFORNIA

"Light green nuggets covered with a coating of crystals. Grinds up nicely and tastes great, leaving me dry-mouthed and red-eyed."

Afghooney - \$560

Des Moines, IOWA

"This bud possesses one of the most otherworldly scents I've ever encountered: a potently sweet and spicy mixture with an almost earthen, pine-quality overtone. This

strain will light you up and set you down. Very cerebral, with an extremely relaxing quality, yet clarity and awareness are maintained."

Strawberry Cough - \$525

Skywalker - \$475

Wausau, WISCONSIN

"I'm from Wausau, WI—right smack-dab in the middle of the state! I'm a subscriber to your magazine, and it saddens me to read the poor THMQ reports from Wisconsin. Can't anybody else find some nice headies around here? I always do, so I figured I would submit a few strains."

Kong - £150

London, UNITED KINGDOM

"Huge, delicious buds, perfectly cured and coated in crystals! Lovely swollen bracts with an amazing flavor and psychedelic high."

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Peil City	NYC Diesel	\$465
ALASKA	Anchorage	Candy Diesel	\$320
ARKANSAS	Little Rock	Afghooney Mids Schwag	\$400 \$180 \$75
CALIFORNIA	Sacramento	Super Silver Haze	\$300
CONNECTICUT	Colchester	Jerry Berries Haze	\$250 \$400
	Fairfield	Orange Bud	\$400
	Hartford	Kali Mist	\$530
FLORIDA	Jacksonville Beach Tallahassee	Green Crack Purple Widow Purple Kush	\$360 \$450 \$500
GEORGIA	Fairburn Lawrenceville	Purple Kush Cali Outdoor Kushberry	\$425 \$250 \$500
IOWA	Des Moines	Afghooney	\$560
ILLINOIS	Chicago Evanston	G-13 Haze Silver Haze	\$550 \$400
	Oak Park	Island Sweet <i>Sativa</i> Capone's Kush	\$375 \$600
INDIANA	Covington	Durban Poison	\$200
MAINE	Fairfield	White Shark	\$320
MARYLAND	Annapolis Baltimore	Kind Sweet God Blueberry Sour Diesel	\$320 \$500 \$600 \$600
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	Purps Jack Herer Lemonberry Kush	\$360 \$440 \$400
	Norton	Mr. Clean	\$390
MONTANA	Bozeman	Trinity Kush Grape Skunk White Nepal	\$400 \$400 \$400
NEBRASKA	Hastings Lincoln	Chocolate Chunk Juicy Fruit AK-47	\$375 \$400 \$400
NEW YORK	New York City	Hemp Star Purple Kush Pineapple Express	\$500 \$500 \$480
NORTH CAROLINA	Asheboro Charlotte Rocky Mount Durham Wilmington	Strawberry Haze Berry Kush Lemon Pine MK-Ultra Super Silver Haze	\$550 \$425 \$225 \$490 \$350
OHIO	Circleville	Schwag	\$90
WISCONSIN	Wausau	Strawberry Cough Skywalker Beasters	\$525 \$475 \$250

INTERNATIONAL (prices in Canadian dollars or British pounds)

UNITED KINGDOM	London	Kong	£150
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As always, Greenhouse was among the larger exhibitors.

IN THE ZONE

THE 2008 CANNABIS CUP EXPO ROUNDUP. BY BOBBY BLACK

It was a cold and rainy Sunday morning in Amsterdam, but that didn't stop a horde of determined stoners fresh off the plane from lining up outside the PowerZone club to register for the 21st Annual Cannabis Cup.

The Expo opened at noon, and the HT staff got busy registering judges, while the nearly 40 vendors set up their elaborately constructed booths and began selling their products and promoting their shops. It was a mecca for marijuana merchandise: There were seed superstars like DNA, Dutch Passion, Serious, Soma, Sensi, Kiwi, Big Buddha, Paradise and Vancouver Seeds. There were grow-supply gurus like Atami, Delta 9 Labs, KJ Products, Trimpro and Mammoth Hydro. Then, of course, there were the coffeeshops. As always, Barney's Farm and Green House were among the largest exhibitors. Ed "Iceman" Borg was representin' for De Rokerij. If you hit up the Bushdoctor booth at just the right time, you might snag yourself a free space cake, while at the booth of newcomers Boerenjongens, the judges were offered free chai tea and canal cruises all day long.

Other cool stuff at this year's Expo included the Bee Line hemp wicks from Fresh Headies, Snail's official Cannabis Cup rolling papers, Bubble Bag's hash-making kit, Tightpack's designer stash containers, Herborizer's glass vaporizer and Arjan's *National Geographic*-style *Strain Hunters* video. But the one item on the tip of everyone's tongue (quite literally) was the Pocket Alchemy cannabis-tincture spray at the DNA booth. Packed with THC goodness, these handy little bottles were like Binaca for the brain—offering a delicious peppermint-, honey/sage- or cinnamon-flavored pick-me-up on the down-low.

One of the more popular attractions at the Expo was the revival of the old Trichome Challenge. The fellas from TH Seeds first invented the Challenge



Miss HT hopefuls bond over a fattie after the auditions.

over a decade ago (at their old digs as the CIA), and it was cool to see it make a comeback. Here's how it works: The challenger sits on a cushy throne and is handed a six-foot bong whose bowl is packed with the purest kif. He/she must then empty the bowl and the chamber, hold the hit in for 10 seconds, and then sit for a full minute without melting down. For those with less ambitious lungs, TH Seeds also offered the iSpliff—an iPhone app that lets you interactively "roll" and "smoke" a digital doob. Sure, HT may have invented the virtual joint a few years ago, but these guys have perfected it.

On the stage, Miss HT 2007 Sarah and I kicked off the opening ceremonies at 4:20 with the lighting of the Cup Menorah—seven colored candles corresponding to the Seven Lights of Cannabis, as envisioned by artist Alex



The Rokerij's impressive smoke selection.



THSeeds' Trichome Challenge.

Barney's BC Chillum tied for first place in the Best Product category.



Reggae historian Roger Steffans talks to the crowd about his adventures with Peter Tosh.



Grey at the 19th Cup. Over the next four days, the stage would host numerous events, including grow seminars by Soma, Arjan of the Green House and Derry of Barney's Farm, as well as informative, entertaining lectures by reggae historian Roger Steffans. There were also impromptu performances by reggae superstars like Andrew Tosh, Cen'C Love, Bushman and Leon—all accompanied by the ras-tabulous Cannabis Cup Band.

On Tuesday afternoon, we held auditions for the next Miss HIGH TIMES finalist, interviewing nearly a dozen girls onstage. Then, on Wednesday morning, the polls opened in the Judges' Lounge upstairs. Voting continued until 4:20 the next day, after which the HT staff tabulated the ballots and reported the results to Cup founder Steve Hager. *Showtime.*

The stage kicked into high gear around 8 p.m. for the big awards show. Sarah and I introduced Wendolyn as our next Miss HIGH TIMES finalist, followed by a roster of HT staffers and celebrity guests announcing the winners of the various cups and medals. As far the Expo awards went, Barney's retained their title from the previous year for Best Booth, and also tied with the Pocket Alchemy spray from DNA for Best Product (for their BC Chillum). For the rest of the results, check out the Cup feature on page 34.

With the Volcanos buzzing in every direction, an irie soundtrack and a hovering haze of smoke as thick as cotton candy, the Zone shined once again as the heady headquarters for this year's Cup. See ya next year! ✨

Tightpak's stash containers.



The Dude Abides



'You have to learn how to pace yourself and kind of do more smoking than drinking.'

Hey Dude, let's party!

Devin the Dude formed his first rap group, the Odd Squad, in Texas in the early '90s along with his brother Dexter and producer "Blind Rob" Quest. Known for his sense of humor and his love of both buds and beer, Devin the Dude has collaborated with some of the biggest names in hip-hop, including Snoop Dogg and Dr. Dre, whom he accompanied on the legendary "Up in Smoke" tour in 2000. He paid HIGH TIMES a visit upon the release of his latest album, *Landing Gear (Razor & Tie)*, and was happy to find that we'd put a few cold ones on ice and rolled a couple spliffs in honor of his arrival. Interview by Chris Simunek

What are the ingredients of a good party?
A good party? Lots of beer, you know what I'm sayin'? First and foremost. Plenty of weed. Close friends. And, of course, a lot of titties. Women—you know, ladies. A couple of hoes here and there. [cracks up laughing]

When was the first time you smoked weed?
The first time I smoked weed, I was in the seventh grade. No—sixth grade. I smoked weed because I was playing sports and stuff in school, and I had a friend about a couple of years older than I was and he smoked. He was like, "Man, hit this." And I was like, "Man, that shit makes you slow. I'm going to be a basketball player, football, I'm gonna do all this shit, man. That shit gonna slow you down, you gonna be slow your whole life ..." [Devin imitates his friend smoking] "Slow, nigga? I can beat you running, nigga, right now!" I think my brother went down there like 50 yards and had his hands up, and I just knew I was going to tear his ass up. "Go!" [Dev swings his arms like he's running] I look behind and I'm

like, "This ain't shit." Next thing you know, this motherfucker shot past me, hauling ass. I'm like, "What the ... ?" So as soon as we finished the race, we walked back down, he pulled out the joint, and I was like, "Lemme hit that?"

So do you think weed actually gives you super-powers?
No, I'm saying just because you smoke weed doesn't *lessen* your powers.

You grew up behind a radio station?
Yeah, we was living in front of a radio station, WRXB in St. Petersburg, FL. And they used to throw a lot of records away simply because they had a little scratch on them and they couldn't afford to have them live on the air. So any little minor scratch, they would throw them in the trash. I used to go out there, scoop them all up and bring them home. Some of the records I heard before, some I had no idea. Some of them was like, "What the fuck?" But it was all new.

What records?
Okay, Quincy Jones had some stuff, Ohio Players, Manhattans, Bar-Kays ... and there was a lot of names that I can't recall, because there was a lot of stuff that they threw away just because they didn't want to play it, I think.

So what was the "Up in Smoke" tour like?
Oh, man, that's what it was—up in smoke every day. There wasn't like a two-day period where there wasn't no weed; there was *always* weed. To the point that like, the first two weeks, man—during the rehearsals and going on—I wanted to party, smoke, chill, drink, because it was *all there*. But I had to find out quickly that it was a job, man, and your work ethics had to be up to par, because every day you have to have that same energy that you did the previous night. It's a whole new crowd, different people ... you have to be on point. You have to learn how to pace yourself and kind of do more smoking than drinking. [cracks up]

Who smokes more, Dre or Snoop?
Uh, Snoop.

How about you or Snoop?
Uh, I would probably say Snoop. [laughter] But I'm right there on his ass, though. That's the big dog, man, it's pretty much obvious. A lot of smokers probably smoke more than I do—but I give everybody a real good race, I'm telling you. ✨

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November 13, 2008

Madison Square Garden



An AC/DC concert is to white people what the *Hajj* is to Muslims—a pilgrimage you make at least once in your life when time and money allow. The formula that these guys have followed since their first record, *High Voltage*, up to the present day's *Black Ice*—steamroller rhythms strung together by spitting-cobra guitar leads and punctuated by fist-pumping Wagnerian choruses—has the power to awaken one's inner Viking with the sort of proficiency that could squeeze a tear out of Leni Riefenstahl's dead left eye. There's nothing racist or exclusive about the event, mind you, but it's definitely a working-class-honky trip that appeals to Caucasians because, hell, you can't sing along to NASCAR.

AC/DC are the most consistent rock'n'roll band of all time. In 35 years, they've never written a ballad or a love song or any other kind of tune that doesn't start to rock within the first eight seconds of needle drop. Brian Johnson is still wearing that ridiculous pigeon-keeper's hat, and Angus Young is still quite comfortable in that moldy schoolboy outfit. I'm glad that not all bands have followed this mandate, but for AC/DC it seems to work.

They opened with a new tune, "Rock 'n' Roll Train," which I guess is a cool



Too old to rock 'n' roll, but they do it anyway.

train to be on because it's loaded with liquor and skanks. Behind them was a giant effigy of an old steam locomotive with devil horns growing out of what would have been its head, had it been a person. My one regret is that the set list was basically the same as when I saw them on the *Razors Edge* tour 18 years before, only the songs that were new then were replaced by songs that were new now.

Even so, "Highway to Hell" doesn't disappoint the way, say, "Sympathy for the Devil" does when the Stones roll it out now. Mick Jagger is a parody of what he once was, whereas AC/DC are still the same guys, only older. There's a difference. Yeah, Mick works out six hours a day, but who'd you rather have at your side in a bar fight? Jagger would be out the door before you could say "Lady Jane," while Brian Johnson would be

on the floor biting some asshole's ear off. At 61, he can still screech like a monkey in vivisection for two hours nonstop. Do an experiment—put on "Back in Black" and try singing along at the top of your lungs in that high register. I guarantee you'll be coughing your lungs out before you even hit the guitar solo.

White people have invented a lot of things—the telephone, the six-pack, the atom bomb—but I'd have to say that AC/DC is one of our noblest accomplishments. I don't know if I'll be in a rush to see them again anytime soon, but I like to know that they're there, same as I'm grateful for the knowledge that my first handgun is just a six-hour drive away in case this economy keeps going south and my inner John Dillinger starts feeling his oats.—Chris Simunek

DÄLEK

Gutter Tactics

(Ipecac)



A bunch of really claustrophobic noise scratches like a hair shirt around just about every theoretically enlightened political rap dished out by Dälek. Straight outta Newark, this scary duo—MC Dälek on vocals and the Oktopus handling production—make deliberately uncomfortable ugly-beauty music simply as a matter of common sense, the gnarly times in which we all live calling for it, don't you know?

On their fourth album, *Gutter Tactics*, they soldier on with a sort of barbed-wire bitterness whose primary appeal (for the nerds who care) is the fact that—as already demonstrated on their previous album, *Abandoned Language*—they're probably better than anyone else at obliterating the final walls between "rock" or "hip-hop" and "serious" music. Taking their cues from the hectoring sermons of Public Enemy and the pummeling poetic prowess of Mobb Deep—as well as from the feedback/microtonal stew of Sonic Youth and a spate of classic Krautrock mind-melters like Faust—Dälek further melt the music down into miasmas of sonic sprawl obviously influenced by the "new music" discoveries of Iannis Xenakis and the advanced jazz explorations of John Coltrane and Miles Davis.

The titles of tracks like "Blessed Are They Who Bash Your Children's Heads Against a Rock," "We Lost Sight," "Who Medgar Evers Was ..." and "A Collection of Miserable Thoughts Laced With Wit" are mere markers pointing the way toward the dissatisfactions that MC Dälek is dealing with—and the interesting thing is, while it may indeed be some of the heaviest shit going, of course you can't understand a word he says. Which is *deliberate*, which means it's kinda political. Doesn't it?—John Payne



ANDREW WICE

To the Last Drop

(Bäuu Press)

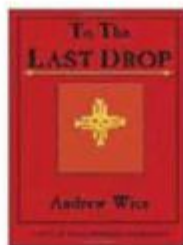


What if a new civil war erupted in this country over water?

That's the premise of *To the Last Drop*, a novel of "water, oppression, and rebellion" by New Mexico author Andrew Wice. After a previously untapped source of water is discovered in the deserts of New Mexico, ruthless corporate magnate U.S. Armstrong—a rabid right-winger from Texas—mounts a concerted effort to steal it. Push comes to shove when a New Mexican pot smuggler plows his truck through a checkpoint set up by the Texas militia. Citing this among other pretexts, Armstrong orders the gung-ho militia across the border to engulf the unprepared New Mexican defense forces in a blitzkrieg attack.

To the Last Drop's protagonists include a disheveled biologist who becomes a rebel leader, a pretty coffeeshop owner who supports the underground, Diablos gang members who form motorcycle-riding citizen-cavalry squads, and a half-breed marijuana grower turned somewhat accidental revolutionary. All of these characters, formerly citizens of New Mexico, find themselves suddenly living in "New Texas" after the federal government recognizes and legitimizes the invasion. These unassuming people are subjected to a brutal occupation by the Texas State Guard, made up mainly of murderous thieves, rednecks and speed freaks, and decide to fight back, waging a dangerous and costly guerrilla campaign against the invaders.

Often funny, as well as easy to imagine in a not-too-distant (if slightly fantastical) future, *To the Last Drop* envisions just how quickly greed and thirst could spark another war between the states.—Preston Peet



ELIOT LIPP

Peace Love Weed 3D

(Old Tacoma)



Here's a slice of cool wax for the optimistic stoner: *Peace Love Weed 3D*, the latest from multi-taskmaster producer/performer/writer Eliot Lipp. *Weed 3D* originated as drum-machine beats and synth noodling enhanced by samples and Lipp's studio alchemy. Setting *Weed 3D* apart from his previous endeavors is the inclusion of a live guitarist, a chap named simply "Guitar Ron," whom Lipp met in the subway near his New York studio. Guitar Ron adds an organic element to *Weed 3D*, elevating it further above generic electronica.

Album launcher "Yeah" gets the party started righteous with some catchy synth jabbing aided by Guitar Ron's jangling rhythms and tasteful picking. The next track, "Proceed," drops in a totally different direction—sublime keys before a laidback groove and funky synth.

"Sentinel" recalls the stylings of genre innovator Simon Posford, more layered and polyrhythmic trance, before bowing to a fat disco beat that, at the appropriate 4:19 mark, morphs neatly into the shake-your-bong-thing title track, here rendered as "P.L.W.-3-D."

"Sandcastle" proffers a synth line recalling Sly Stone's "Family Affair." "Lazer Cave" is more overtly experimental, spawning a pastiche of sounds and samples to engage the listener. (Some of *Weed 3D's* tracks tend to fade into the background, but not "Cave.") Album closer "Beamrider" is pure Lipp: dreamy psych-synth anchored by an old-school rap beat until the chest-poking percussion and more deliberate key-tinkling come to dominate the proceedings. Credit Lipp with formulating a futuristic gestalt that manages to tip its hat to the '70s and '80s in equal measure with his latest release.—Mark Miller



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BY BOBBY BLACK



DRUGS, ROCK AND THE NEW REPUBLIC

Warrior Soul headlines a **HIGH TIMES** benefit concert for **NORML** in New York.

Back in the fall of 1990, there was a Bush in the White House and a war with Iraq. I'd just entered college and had started hosting a heavy metal show at the school's radio station. It was there, amongst the piles of promotional CDs, that I discovered an album entitled *Last Decade Dead Century* by a poetic protest band called Warrior Soul. It was some of the most intelligent, outspoken rock music I'd ever heard. Led by charismatically caustic frontman Kory Clarke, the band released five brilliant albums in as many years, including *Drugs, God and the New Republic* and



Bobby smokes out Black Water Rising at Don Hill's.

Salutations From the Ghetto Nation. But sadly, after several lineup changes, Warrior Soul called it quits in 1995.

I didn't hear the name Kory Clarke again until 2004, when my friends in the band Dirty Rig recruited him as their new singer. That March, the Rig played at my birthday party, and I met Kory for the first time. Turns out he was as big a pothead as I was, and we got along like gangbusters. Soon after, he was a guest on my radio show and even invited me into the recording studio with his new band, the Stoned (featuring former WS bassist Pete McLanahan).

Fast-forward to October 2008: Election Day is fast approaching, and I'm trying to organize a "Smoke the Vote" benefit concert to raise money for NORML, when I get wind that Warrior Soul are about to release a new album (*Chinese Democracy*) and embark on a big comeback tour. I called Kory, and within minutes I had both Warrior Soul and the Stoned signed up to play. With the addition of a few more bands and pot comic Rob Cantrell, the show was on.

For a cold Sunday night, the turnout at New York City's Don Hill's club was not too shabby. Cantrell got things started right with a hilarious half-hour of stoner standup.

"Recession? Fuck—I've been broke this whole time!" Cantrell complained. "But weed gets you through that. You don't give a

fuck if you got a little bit of weed, right? A couple of DVDs, a couch ... that's all I need."

The first band of the evening was Killcode, who were fresh off the bus from the "Rock the Ink" Festival in Providence, RI—carrying in tow none other than stoner sex-pot Mistress Juliya, who'd spent the past three days on tour with them.

Next up were the Stoned (featuring Clarke on drums). They prefaced their set with a few Three Stooges-style slapstick videos they'd produced, including one entitled "Weed-a-Pet" in which the band try to earn their rent by inventing a cannabis Chia Pet. They got the crowd riled with their cock rock anthems "Drunk Drivers From Space" and "Nobody Rides for Free."

Then came Brooklyn's own Black Water Rising (featuring former members of Boiler Room, Stereomud and Dust to Dust). Their first single, "Brother Go On," had been on Sirius Octane's Top 20 list for months, and their sociopolitical melodic metal proved a perfect fit for the show's theme.

Finally, it was time for the main event. I took the stage and auctioned off some HT DVDs, a Gravitron gravity bong and a killer glass water pipe (courtesy of

glassartplus.com) before introducing the night's headliners.

"Throughout the '90s, this band spoke out against the oppression and corruption of our government and their corporate masters, and embodied the spirit of art and activism," I declared. "Now, just when we need them most—with another Bush in the White House and another war in Iraq—they're back to remind us that we are the government ... and we rock and roll!"

Warrior Soul hit the stage like a speed-bag, ripping out classics like "The Losers," "We Cry Out" and "Punk and Belligerent," as well as their new single, "The Fourth Reich." Granted, this was not the incarnation of the band I worshipped in my college days (Clarke is actually the only original member). Nevertheless, having Warrior Soul headline a gig that I put together was for me the culmination of a decade-long, angst-fueled dream. But alas, it was the end of another dream, for it was also on this night that I officially conceded my candidacy for president and publicly endorsed Barack Obama—giving him the highly coveted Bobby Black Bump.

You're welcome, Mr. President. Now about those marijuana-decriminalization bills coming to your desk ...

Check out video from the show at hightimes.com/tags/smoke_the_vote.

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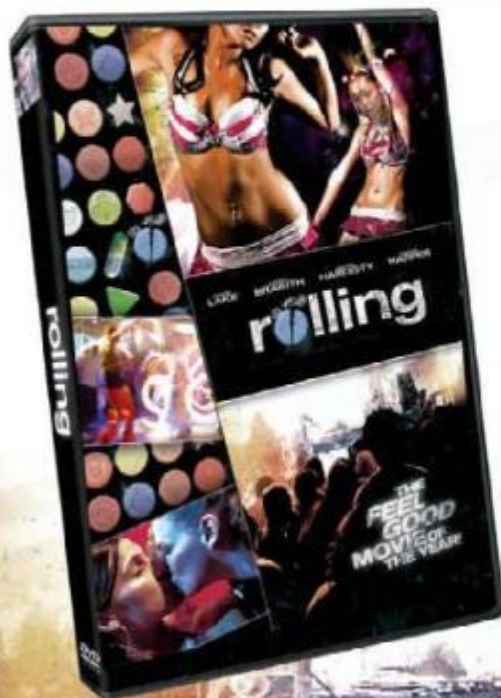
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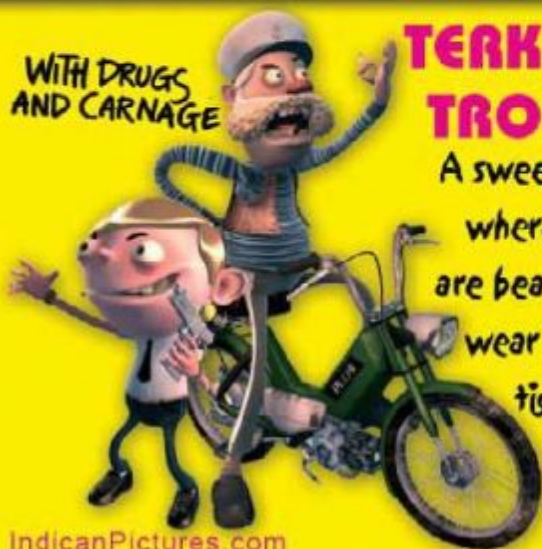
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Behind the Twinkie Defense

BY PAUL KRASSNER

November marked the 30th anniversary of the assassination of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone—who, as majority leader of the state senate, passed a bill reducing the penalties for simple marijuana possession—and Supervisor Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in America. Although the killer, Dan White, a homophobic former policeman, had already confessed to the murders, he pleaded not guilty in court. I covered his trial for an alternative weekly, the *Bay Guardian*.

In a surprise move, White's defense team presented a biochemical explanation of his behavior, blaming it on the compulsive gobbling down of sugar-filled junk-food snacks. This was a purely accidental tactic: Dale Metcalf, a former member of Ken Kesey's Merry Pranksters who had become a lawyer, told me how he happened to be playing chess with Steven Scherr, an associate of Dan White's attorney, after having just read *Orthomolecular Nutrition* by Abram Hoffer. Metcalf questioned Scherr about White's diet and learned that, while under stress, he would consume plenty of candy bars and soft drinks. Metcalf then recommended the book to Scherr, suggesting the author as an expert witness. (In his book, Hoffer revealed a personal vendetta against doughnuts, and White had once eaten five doughnuts in a row!)

And so it came to pass, more or less. During the trial, a psychiatrist testified that on the night before the murders, White had been getting increasingly "depressed about the fact he would not be reappointed" as city supervisor, and "he just sat there in front of the TV set, bingeing on Twinkies." In my notebook, I scribbled the phrase "the Twinkie defense" and wrote about it in my next report. As the *San Francisco Chronicle* later reported: "During the trial, no one but well-known satirist Paul Krassner—who may have coined the phrase 'Twinkie defense'—played up that angle."

In court, White just sat there impassively, in a state of complete self-control bordering on catatonia, as he listened to an assembly line of psychiatrists tell the jury how out of control of his actions he'd been. One even testified that, "if not for the aggravating fact of junk food, the homicides might not have taken place."

In the wake of the Twinkie defense, a representative of the ITT-owned Continental Baking Company asserted that the notion that overdosing on the cream-filled goodies could lead to murderous behavior was "poppycock" and "crap"—apparently two of the artificial ingredients in Twinkies, along with sodium pyrophosphate and yellow dye—while another spokesperson for the company couldn't believe "that a rational jury paid serious attention to that issue."

Nevertheless, some jurors did. One remarked after the trial that "it sounded like Dan White had hypoglycemia."

Attorney Doug Schmidt's closing argument became almost an apologetic parody of his own defense presentation. He told the jury that White did not have to be "slobbering at the mouth" to be subject to diminished capacity. Nor, he said, was this simply a case of "eat a Twinkie and go crazy."

The Devil Dogs made me do it.



Each juror originally had to swear devotion to the criminal-justice system. Yet it was this very system that allowed for the shrewd Schmidt's transmutation of a double political execution into the mere White Sugar Murders.

On the 50th anniversary of the Twinkie's creation, inventor James Dewar said: "Some people say Twinkies are the quintessential junk food, but I believe in the things. I fed them to my four kids, and they feed them to my 15 grandchildren. Twinkies never hurt them." A year later, the world's largest Twinkie was unveiled in Boston. It was 10 feet long, 3 feet 6 inches high, 3 feet 8 inches wide, and weighed more than a ton.

In January 1984, Dan White was released from prison. He had served a little more than five years. The estimated shelf life of a Twinkie is seven years; that's two years longer than White spent behind bars. So when he was released, those Twinkies in his cupboard were still edible. But maybe, instead of eating them, he should have had them bronzed.

Almost two years later, in October 1985, White committed suicide by carbon-monoxide poisoning in his garage. He taped a note to the windshield of his car that read: "I'm sorry for all the pain and trouble I've caused."

I was in a position to accept his apology, since I had gotten caught in the post-verdict riot and was beaten by a couple of cops. My posture was affected, my gait became increasingly twisted, and ultimately, as a result, I now walk with the aid of a cane. At the airport, I have to put my cane on the conveyor belt along with my overnight bag and shoes, but then I'm handed an orange-colored wooden cane by security to go through the metal detector. You just never know what could be hidden inside a cane. 🐾

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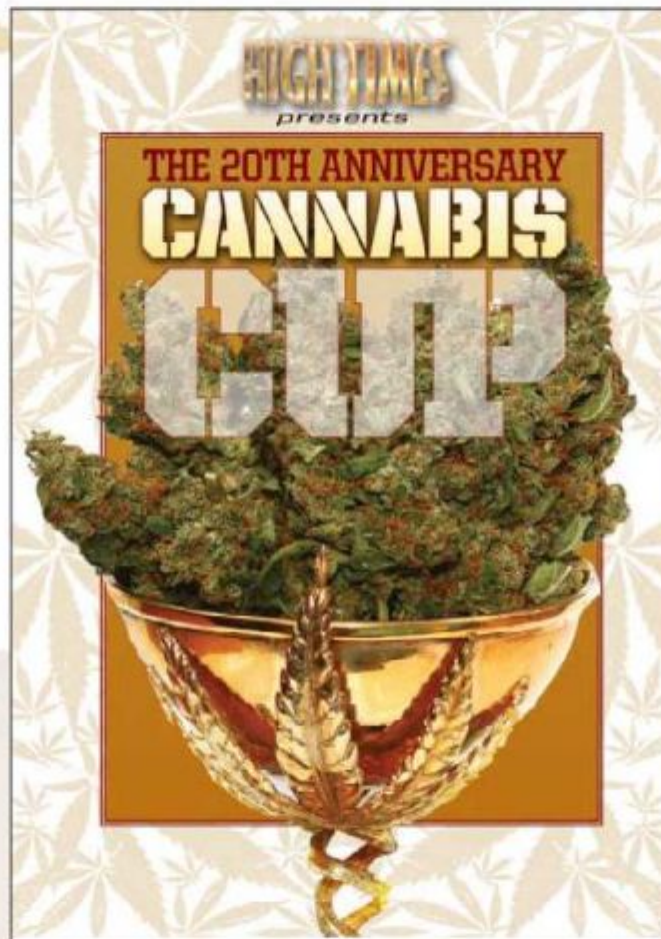
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Greetings From

At the 21st Annual Cannabis Cup, the irie vibes were in full effect, with the induction of reggae legend Peter Tosh into the Counterculture Hall of Fame providing the perfect backdrop for celebrations and ceremonies featuring music, merriment and massive amounts of marijuana. By Danny Danko

Ky-Mani Marley, son of Bob, smoking Cup-winning Super Lemon Haze onstage.

A hand holding a microphone against a dark background with a glowing blue heart.

the Most High

Legalize It and I Will Advertise It

So begins another year at “marijuana fantasy camp”—four blessed days during which attendees from around the globe get to mingle with the bud breeders, coffeeshop entrepreneurs and cannabis celebrities who inhabit our wonderful world of weed. It’s such a thrill to gather together every year and hang with the heroes of the movement, whether it’s just to catch up with old friends or talk shop on the latest strains, innovations and growing techniques with acclaimed cultivation experts like Jorge Cervantes or legendary breeders like the great Soma (of Soma Seeds), Luc (of Paradise Seeds) and even Kees Hoekert, who was growing and producing seeds in Amsterdam with the Lowland Weed Company way back in the 1960s.

Landing at Schiphol Airport and riding into town brimming with anticipation of the many great things to come, I found myself thinking of just who it was we were all here to honor this year: Peter Tosh, the revolutionary “Bush Doctor” whose uncompromising spirit and legendary love of ganja earned him an undying place in our marijuana memory. What an honor it would be to celebrate the “Stepping Razor” and his long-awaited induction into the HIGH TIMES Counterculture Hall of Fame.

In the wake of Barack Obama’s victory in the US presidential election, as well as the troubling current crackdown on pot culture in Holland, my thoughts also turned to all those weed warriors who have fought and even died for the cause of cannabis freedom—the countless growers, dealers and smokers who suffered, and who continue to be harassed and imprisoned around the world, simply because of their love for a beautiful and beneficial plant. Peter Tosh spoke and sang for all of us, and his entry into the annals of our history felt long overdue. Songs like “Legalize It,” “Na Goa Jail (Fe Ganja No More)” and “What’cha Gonna Do?” clearly highlight the injustice of pot prohibition in a powerful and enduring way.

As we contemplated the many jars filled with herb that we were about to partake in, my only regret was that Peter himself wasn’t here to enjoy the fruits of his creative energies and labor. Luckily for all of us, his sons Andrew and David were able to bless the Cup with their presence and help us in judging the many weeds and hashes, as well as reminisce about the incredible legacy their dad left to our cause. We were also honored to be joined by reggae historian and Tosh friend Roger Steffens and his lovely wife Mary; getting a chance to speak to him over a spliff or two proved to be one of the many highlights of the Cup.

“Ras Rogah,” as he’s known by the many epic musical artists he’s befriended and interviewed over the years, showed us never-before-seen photos and videos and spoke eloquently about his many interactions with Peter Tosh, Bob Marley and other pot-celebrating reggae musicians. I asked him about the honor of dedicating this particular Cup to Peter, and he told me: “Nobody did more to advance the conscious use of marijuana—nor suffered the consequences more severely—than Peter Tosh. He blew smoke in the face of authority and wrote the anthem [‘Legalize It’] that the entire world still sings.” Years ago, Peter even told Roger that it was against his religion *not* to smoke herb.



An already tough decision was made all the more difficult thanks to the increased quality of the coffeshop weeds.



Expert judges inspect the jars searching for the elusive "holy grail" strain.



Proper testing requires various forms of partaking.

Two Sevens Clash

First on the agenda, we, the expert judges, were recruited to narrow down the coffeshop strains and make our recommendations to the masses. In previous years, three shops were chosen on the merits of the bud they'd entered, and those shops became the focus of the electoral process. This year, the judges—made up of HIGH TIMES employees and friends such as Miss HT 2007 Sarah Newton and Andrew Tosh and his band—decided to choose a total of seven shops, in keeping with a theme established by Cup founder Steven Hager. At the

20th Cup, the artist Alex Grey painted and described his Seven Lights of Cannabis, and we'd lit seven candles on the ceremonial altar to signify them. It seemed there were sevens everywhere—a good omen, since in ancient numerology, the number seven was often the symbol for spiritual perfection or completion. But there was also a practical side to our decision: picking seven shops selling weed over the counter gave the paying judges more options and a better selection of strains and vibes from which to choose.

An already tough decision was made all the more difficult thanks to the increased quality of the coffeshop weeds. They really stepped up their game this year, knowing that the competition was going to be fierce and the judging extremely rigorous. Any weeds that didn't burn or smell properly were immediately discarded; only the best of the best would be allowed to shine through.

Luckily, we had a new pipe on hand

called the Helix from 420 Science, who also made the official stash jars that held all of the sacred herb and hash. Smoke swirled through the glass, providing a purer taste and better representation of each entry to judge thoroughly and properly.

After some careful deliberation and testing of strains—which had been randomly assigned names from the Tarot in order to keep their identities secret to us—we decided upon the following seven shops and weeds, in no particular order, as our recommendations to fellow Cup attendees:

- Spirit = LA Confidential (from Tweede Kamer)
- Magician = Bubblegum Haze (from Mellow Yellow)
- Irony = Chocolope (from Green Place)
- Integrity = Cheese (from Homegrown Fantaseeds)
- The Devil = Lemnesia (from Bushdocter)
- Temperance = Chocouloup (from El Toro)
- Judgment = S5 (from the Noon).

These were merely recommendations, however; the judges were free to vote for whichever shops they preferred. The idea was to visit as many of them as possible to get the best idea of who to choose for the Cannabis Cup. We met two friends traveling together who'd not only managed to visit every shop that had entered, but also had stapled a weed sample from each into their booklet to help them decide. Incidentally, their favorite was the Cheese from Homegrown Fantaseeds, and they were surprised to find out that it wasn't among the final top three coffeshops. (Cheese did place second in the Seed Company *Indica* Cup.)




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It was exciting to see Italians, Spaniards, Germans and Japanese, all united by a love of cannabis.

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Rocker T and the Cannabis Cup Band rejoice.



Judges await their date with destiny.

It Don't Matter Where You Come From ...

Before we sat down to judge the Seed Company *Indica* competition, it was time to start the registration process and make sure every attendee had a Cup guidebook, map of Amsterdam and custom Cannabis Cup T-shirt. It's always fun to greet the arriving "Cup Heads," and we were intrigued to find that many Europeans and Asians had made the trip this year. Typically, Americans comprise the bulk of our visitors, but the combination of a weak dollar and a troubled economy seemed to have thinned the Yank ranks, providing a much more international flavor to our sensi stew. It was exciting to see Italians, Spaniards, Germans and Japanese, all united by a love of cannabis, coming together to celebrate the plant in all its forms.

One of the best new ways to ingest THC was via the bottled tinctures on display, with both THSeeds and DNA Genetics sharing their booths with product competitors to highlight their unique sensi sprays. These ingenious devices allow you to mist an alcohol extract directly onto your tongue for easy absorption and a very quick and effective impact. Both the M-Spray (made with MK-Ultra) and Pocket Alchemy (available in three different flavors) were hailed as quite an innovation for medical and recreational cannabis users alike.

On Monday night, it was time for the highly anticipated Green House Party at the Melkweg featuring Ky-Mani Marley. The son of Bob Marley and Jamaican table-tennis champion Anita Belnavis, Ky-Mani combines covers of his father's great tunes with rousing renditions of his own originals. One in particular—"Dear Dad," Ky-Mani's heartfelt and achingly personal tribute to his father, written at the tender age of 15—brought many in the audience to tears. On that touching note, Ky-Mani quickly shifted into party mode, puffing on a huge spliff of Green House's Super Lemon Haze and blasting out an excellent mashup of "Rebel Music" into "Three O'Clock Roadblock" into a "One Love" encore for the ages.

And woe betide any judge who missed the late-night post-Ky-Mani show next door at the Melkweg Old Haal, where the Cannabis Cup Band ripped through song after song, both covers and originals, with a glorious abandon. Singer Rocker T in particular seemed possessed with the spirit of the moment, kicking off one incredible tune after another until the sweat-soaked band and audience alike were left in a state of mingled exhaustion and exhilaration.

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Cannabis samples abounded, and most of the booths provided at least one way to get high.



Paradise Seeds unveiled a secret process that produces feminized seeds.

Coming in Hot!

Tuesday provided a well-earned respite, and the opportunity to walk around the Cup Expo at the PowerZone and check out the many sponsors and booths set up inside. It was fascinating to see the varied aspects of cannabis culture arrayed in one space, with seeds, nutrients, all-in-one ganja grow boxes and glass water pipes all on display. Cannabis samples abounded, and most of the booths provided at least one way to get high.



Master Soma

The Delta 9 Labs guys, Ed and Harry, had set up an ingenious Vapo Tent, in which two Volcanos pumped away to provide a full-body vaporization experience. They were premiering their Brainstorm Haze x G-13, and having tried and chosen their Brainstorm Haze as one of the Top 10 Strains of 2008 (Dec. '08 HT), I was quite interested to see what the infusion of male G-13 pollen would produce. I was not disappointed.

Don and Aaron of DNA Genetics were still buzzing from the thrill of finding that three of the seven chosen coffeeshop strains had been grown from their beans. They told me about their new line of feminized seeds, which was bred especially for the burgeoning bud market in Spain, where growers these days won't buy seeds unless they're feminized.

Greenlife Seeds, out of western Canada, brought back the tradition of having live ganja plants on display in their booth. Paradise Seeds went one step further, revealing a couple of "selfed" plants from which they get their feminized seeds. These forced hermies are the lifeblood of the feminized-seed biz, but it's quite

rare to see them up close and personal. In past years, such beautiful plants would grace the booths of many seed vendors, and it was a welcome sight to find them back in their rightful place, front and center at the Cannabis Cup. Paradise Seeds also won second place in the Seed Company *Sativa* category for their De La Haze, proving that this company is truly here to stay.

Meanwhile, over at Soma's booth, judge after judge sampled some of the finest hash and best-cured cannabis to be found anywhere in Europe. Soma's organically grown beans and buds continue to provide a benchmark for quality.

Downstairs, THSeeds unveiled their newest strains, the A-Train Wreckage and Rambo—a new Jamaican-based monster hybrid perfect for outdoor guerrilla gardeners. The boys had set up a throne for the Trichome Challenge, a videotaped bong-hit competition broadcast on their big-screen TV. And their Hemp Hoodlamb line has evolved from the original winter coats with fake fur trim into a whole array of products featuring hemp fabrics, eco-friendly inks and simple street-wise style.

Anyone who stopped by Bubbleman's booth was treated to a bubble-hash-making demonstration as well as extremely potent bong hits of full-melt hashish. The cured and freshly made ice-water-extracted trichomes packed quite a punch, with a spicy flavor and thick smoke that expands in the lungs to provide an instant buzz.

Great pot from the UK was well represented, too. Big Buddha smoked me out with a bunch of his latest "gear," including the G-Bomb, the Kali, Buddha Haze and Chiesel, all incredibly potent and tasty and available in feminized form.

Amsterdam Fights Coffeeshop Crackdown

Amsterdam Mayor Job Cohen is lobbying Holland's Justice Ministry to give the city an exemption from national rules that would prohibit coffee shops from operating within 250 meters of schools. The regulations would take effect by the end of 2011.

On November 21, 43 of Amsterdam's 228 cannabis-selling coffee shops received notices that they were in violation of the new ordinance.

Mayor Cohen argues that the Dutch federal government's directive is misguided. Along with city alderman, who have voted overwhelmingly to challenge the issue, the mayor believes that the cafes are already well regulated in regard to youth. Coffee shops are off limits to those under the age of 18; violators can lose their license.

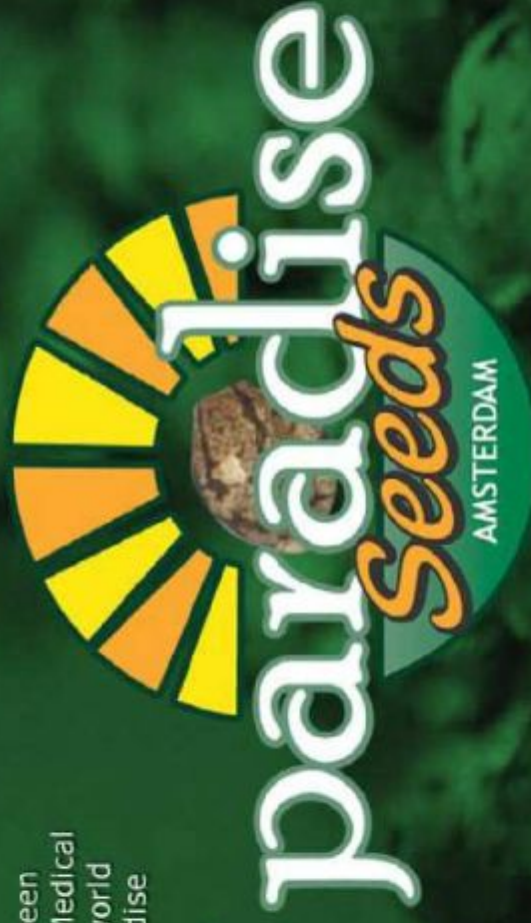
More than a quarter of the country's cafes are in Amsterdam, where they are visited by around 25 percent of all tourists who visit the city.

Christian Democrat Justice Minister Ernest Hirsch Balin has hinted that he might be flexible on the school zone law.



Medicinal use

Cannabis has always been used as a medicine. Medical patients around the world noticed that the Paradise Seeds varieties are excellent to help relieve pain and suffering, reduce nausea, induce appetite and treat a range of other ailments for people who require medical marijuana.

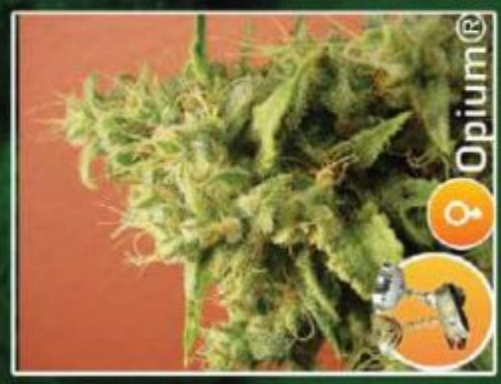


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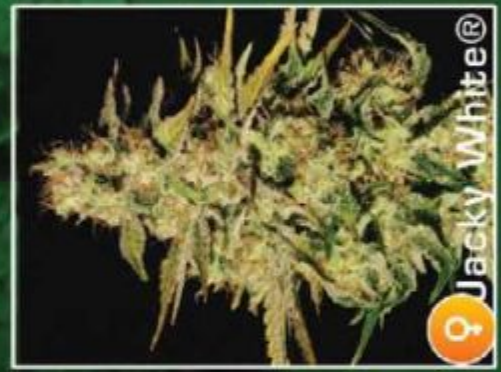
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Aaron and Don from DNA Genetics reppin' Cali in Amsterdam.



Andrew Tosh, Ky-Mani Marley, Leon and Roger Steffens feel the Cup vibe.

Under Mi Sensi

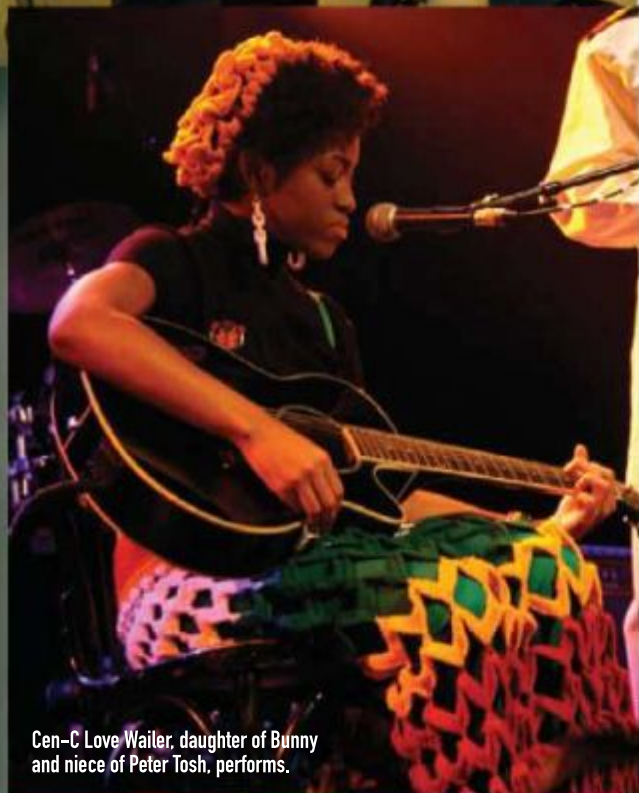
Tuesday was also Bob Marley day at the Expo, and the Cannabis Cup Band featured a rotating cast of singers all paying tribute to the "Tuff Gong," as well as an enlightening presentation by Mr. Steffens highlighting Bob's contributions to cannabis culture and world peace.

Tuesday night's DNA Party at Club More Amour featured pot popcorn, tons of giveaways and an incredible hip-hop performance from the excellent Dilated Peoples. This was throw-back-style hip-hop, with two emcees tossing dope lines back and forth and DJ Babu killing it on the turntables. You could feel the full-on family vibe of the DNA crew and friends, and by time the encore—with its chorus of "When worst comes to worst, my people come first!"—resonated through the crowd like the many joints and bongos being passed around, the whole crew was dancing and hugging onstage in a spontaneous display of brotherhood.

Wednesday at the PowerZone featured more on Peter Tosh, with the Cannabis Cup Band and Rocker T performing a scorching version of "Equal Rights" and Bushman practically channeling Peter for a fierce rendition of "Bumbaclaat," during which he improvised with the line "Barack Obama hit the chalice!"

Cen'C Love, Bunny Wailer's daughter (as well as Peter Tosh's niece), sang some beautiful, subdued acoustic pieces, including one in which she repeated: "I hope I never run out of my indo." Her lovely voice and musical skills were on full display, and many judges were mesmerized by her ability to sweetly and softly command attention from the crowd.

Soon it was time to head over to the Barney's Party at the Melkweg, featuring the incredible Steel Pulse—reggae superstars with an outstanding repertoire of memorable hits from a 30-plus-year history. The inimitable David Hinds and his colleagues roared through old favorites like "Rally Round the Flag" and "Stepping Out," as well as a brand-new one called "Vote Barack." Needless to say, they brought the house down with their intense musical celebration of cannabis and human rights.



Cen-C Love Wailer, daughter of Bunny and niece of Peter Tosh, performs.



Derry—owner of Barney's Breakfast Bar and Coffeshop—with singer Bushman.



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Cannabis Cup winner Arjan celebrates at his newest Green House location.

Ready for Judgment

With voting in effect all day Thursday (the final day of the Cup), the judges took their time filling out their ballots in the spacious lounge upstairs. I also took my time to partake in some of the incredible hashish entries. After the beautiful chunks were photographed, they were distributed among Cup staffers to be smoked and shared with attendees. Two of my personal favorites were the Triple Zero from Barney's (first-place winner of the Import Hash Cup) and the always-reliable Grey Crystal from the Grey Area (third-place winner for *Neder* or Dutch Hash).

The first-place overall Cannabis Cup for coffeeshops went to the Green House for their newest shop, Green House United, where the buds and hash are only rivaled by the meals, the drinks and the overall comfort level. The accompanying strain, Super Lemon Haze, was a superb *sativa*, well-grown and with subtle tastes of citrus and pine.

Second place went to last year's winner, Barney's Breakfast Bar, one of the most consistently chronic shops around, with a wonderful variety of quality cannabis and hashish on the menu along

Super Lemon Haze, was a superb *sativa* well-grown and with subtle tastes of citrus and pine.

with some of the best food in Amsterdam. Their Utopia Haze cut through the fog with a unique flavor and a euphoric "up" high that's perfect for roaming the streets

and canals of this old merchant city.

The third-place coffeeshop winner, Green Place, was a first-time entrant in the Cup, and it's a perfect spot for locals and tourists alike, with a super-friendly staff and great weed and hash. Considered a dark horse and an unlikely challenger to the powerhouse shops, Green Place won many judges over with their properly grown and well-cured cannabis. You can tell they take great pride in their product, and the location is hard to beat.

After the awards show at the PowerZone, everyone headed over to the Melkweg for a cathartic final concert featuring many of the artists who'd been performing all week. Each singer gave it his or her all, knowing that in all likelihood they wouldn't be gracing a stage together again anytime soon. Recognizing the intensity of the moment, several were flooded with joy and emotion that soon spilled into the crowd, creating an amazing irie vibe that carried us through the evening.

Heading back to the airport the next day, and all through our preparations to return to our supposedly "free" country, we couldn't help but feel a little melancholy. How much longer would the coffeeshop scene last in Amsterdam? How many more years of tolerance are left? And how could we possibly choose to leave this incredible place?

With the songs of Andrew Tosh, Ky-Mani Marley, Cen'C Love, Steel Pulse, Dilated Peoples, Leon, Rocker T, Bushman and the Cannabis Cup Band still ringing in my ears, I could only hope that there will be many more years of cannabis freedom in Amsterdam, and that it will spread beyond Holland throughout the world. That would be the best tribute to Peter Tosh, and to everyone else who stood up and fought for our rights. ✨

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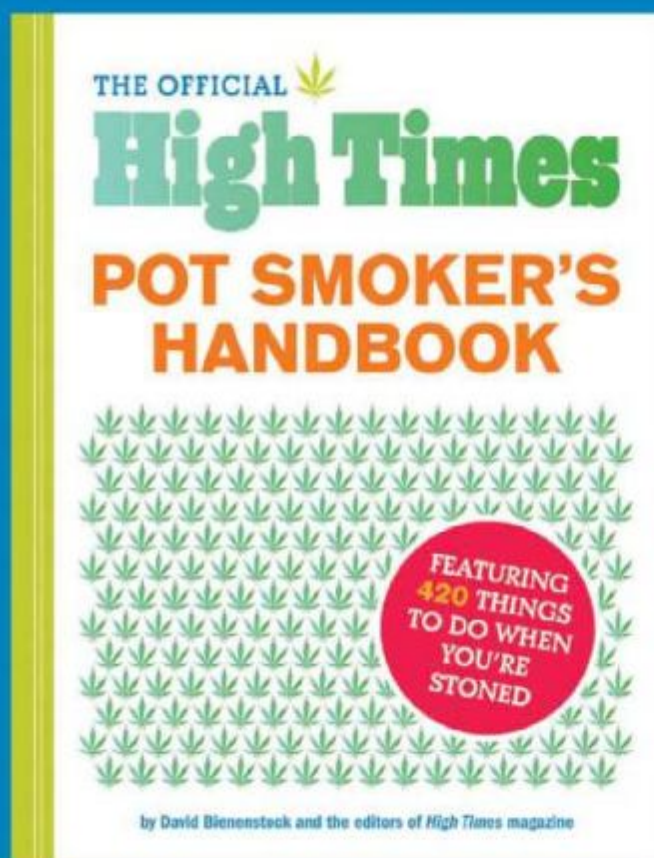
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Story by Nico Escondido



Growing in Wonderland

Sometimes I forget why I got into all of this in the first place.

Sometimes it becomes very easy to lose yourself, to forget which way is forward.

Needless to say, immersing oneself in Amsterdam, the Mecca of Cannabis, during the world's foremost cannabis competition can get overwhelming. Besides the enviable task of judging the Earth's best strains, the *pot*-litics that come with it can seem confining and sometimes downright depressing. Playing mediator or conducting arbitration over the town's biggest dramas are chores that come with the territory, but finding ways to stay abreast of and above these pitfalls are the true tricks of the trade.

For me, slipping away into my fantastical world is the best escape. Especially here, where the haven I crave is all too real and utterly omnipresent if you know where to look. And just like that, when it seems like there's no escape, you find a place where people are growing, and you join them like you would a spiritual gathering—and maybe, at the end of that day, you'll have grown a little bit too.

The Cheshire Cat

You can imagine my relief when, four days deep into the Cup, I was invited to a harvest party. It was to be a small, intimate gathering about 100 kilometers northwest of the city ...

"...far into the Noord," whispered my confidant. "To Chunga's farm—and come alone."

A bit startled, I shot back: "Can I bring my girl? She, um, you know, holds my camera."

"Can she trim?" my confidant asked.

"Of course," I said, chuckling at the question.

"Sure, bring her," he said quickly. "Take the train, track seven, 10 a.m. tomorrow morning, from the Centraal Station. Get off after 68 minutes, just after the windmills," he continued even more softly near my ear.

"Okay, but windmills? What wind—" But by the time I turned around to finish the question, he had vanished.

I thought for a second, recalling the dialogue that had just transpired. Could it really be? At a time when every ripened bud in the city had been chopped down at least six weeks prior in anticipation of the grand event, a time when the oldest plants in Amsterdam were maybe two weeks old, suddenly out of nowhere comes an angel who bestows this gift on me—a room ready to come down tomorrow and an invitation to attend the harvest. I counted myself among the lucky, fortunate to have found my escape, yet curious what the path ahead would yield



Through a looking glass, some things can take on a whole new look....



and

A Glimpse Down a Dutch Hatch and Beyond

Down the Little White Rabbit's Hole

The double-decker train car was scarcely crowded heading out of town. As it wobbled out of the station, I noticed a newspaper on the table near our seats that had a large, bold headline running across the top. With the help of a dictionary, I managed to decipher it: "Ban on Mushrooms in Effect Today." It was particularly sad to be in Holland on that day, and even tougher not to wonder what the world was coming to when the once free and open Netherlands has finally succumbed to a provincially conservative movement of its own.

We sipped our tea, ate our croissants and sat back gazing out the window. My mind slipped further away from reality as the mellow vibe we'd been seeking finally found us. When the train suddenly stopped, many minutes later, I felt panic take over and quickly jumped up on wobbly legs.

"Babe, wake up, I think we're here."

But the train began to move again before we could get off, and soon there was nothing. I glared out the window at expansive, dry wheat fields and a bunch of funny windmills in the distance, their arms spinning around

and around fervidly ...

"Wait, look! Windmills!" I shouted. Now it was all starting to make sense. "The next stop is ours—get ready."

The contrast from Centraal Station to a small town in the countryside was staggering. As we disembarked at a village whose name I dared not try to pronounce, we found Chunga waiting there patiently, thumping his white tail.

"Mind if we make a quick stop, mate?" he asked as we crammed into the tiny hatchback.

"Not at all. Where are we going?" I said.

"Where else? The grow shop!"

I'm not sure why that response sent chills running down my back, but it got me excited. I felt awake and alive for the first time in days. It was exactly what I wanted to hear—or maybe, more simply, what I *needed* to hear. Something refreshing, something true, something not at all dramatic.

We cruised past some farms, through some more fields and pulled up at a corner grow shop, surrounded by pastures and livestock.

Supplies! I thought to myself.

The inside was dark, damp, and smelled like cigars and pot. Lamp hoods and drying racks hung from the ceiling and almost knocked me over as I tried to navigate the lair. Chunga proceeded to clean the store out: drying racks, scissors, bags, a bunch of rockwool, a few bottles of nutes ... and I followed suit, grabbing everything I could.

Holy shit, we gotta hurry! I thought as I scampered about, stuffing my pockets with peat pellets and dragging huge coco slabs off the shelves.

"Oh, no! Hey, dude—what are you doin', man?!" Chunga yelled from behind the counter, where he was shaking hands with a strange man.

I looked back, and there was my girlfriend staring at me like I had three heads, her hands gesturing in the air. Confused and feeling a little dizzy, I slowly started to push the slabs back on the shelf.

"Um ... whoops! Ha, ha—sorry," I said like a jackass as I emptied my pockets.

"Okay, adios, friend," Chunga said to the shopkeeper—and without even dropping a dime, he headed for the door. "Put it on the tab!"

Leaving the store, my girl tugged on my arm and asked: "What was in that tea?"



Tea, beer, buds...a very merry unbirthday to you! (Yes, you!)

A Mad Hatter's Mad Tea Party

We arrived at the harvest to find a table of trimmers in full swing.

"Don't worry, Nico, we only took down about a dozen plants so far," they assured me.

So I poked my head into the various rooms to see what we were dealing with. The thick, super-sweet aroma immediately reminded me that I was in Holland and that Super Silver Haze abounds.

I took a deep breath in as my mood transitioned to mellow, and then I returned to the trim room. I looked around the table for familiar faces, but realizing that I didn't actually know anyone there, I began to introduce myself.

Chunga's army was a very cool, old-school lot. There was Phil, who according to legend was the pioneer who first brought hydroponic growing to Holland some 25 years ago. Then there was Bert, the jolliest bloke of them all. In total, they were exactly the crew one would hope to meet, a group of dedicated warriors, men who had been at it for decades and paid their dues along the way.

Now they sat around the trim table laughing at the debacle of tourists and purveyors crammed into the city's center, while they themselves sat drinking beers and scraping piles of fresh finger hash into traditional Dutch spliffs.

Chunga, the owner of the stead and principal farmer, looked at me and smiled, his head bobbing to the grooves pumping out of the sound system.

"Recognize the chunes, do ya?" he asked.

"Zappa?" I replied.

"YES! *Chunga's Revenge*, to be exact," he said, revealing the source of his chosen moniker.

And as Chunga proceeded to tell us tales from his childhood, which was spent growing up in the countryside surrounding the world's pot epicenter, I began to realize that there was more to his alias



Hopefully this caterpillar stays OUT of the hookah....

than just Frank Zappa. Specifically, the second half of that album title—*Revenge*—played a significant role in what Chunga was all about.

Turns out that Chunga, many years ago, had a few encounters with the heavily bureaucratic Dutch government and tax system that had left him vowing revenge. Chunga's goal was simple: Grow, grow, grow and make as much money as possible, so he could one day escape and spend it anywhere but here!

During the past 12 years, Chunga has fed off the Dutch government, getting subsidies for housing and finding innovative ways to cut corners at the government's expense, including free electricity. In many ways, it's exactly what the Dutch government fears and what the general public hates about growers in Holland, but as we all know, it stems from simple jealousy. If the Dutch government would get rid of the gray areas in the law and allow anyone and everyone to grow (which, unfortunately, is not the case in Holland), then everyone could sit back and reap the benefits.

"Fuck 'em!" Chunga said. And I was inclined to agree. After all, when you screw over a hustler, you get hustled right back.



Harvested top-feed system or hoops on a croquet field?

The Queen's Croquet Field

Inside the growrooms, a team of fairies was working with gentle fervor, in rhythmic fashion.

Stroke after stroke, the branches went tumbling down into boxes. One of the fairies leaned over and handed me a box. "Off with their heads," she said with a wink.

I grabbed a pair of scissors and began lopping off the huge colas and placing them on drying racks along the walls. Soon these racks were taken away to the trimming table and replaced by fresh screens. I took a minute to survey the room and make some calculations in my head.

"We only have 200 plants here," said a voice. It was Chunga, reading my thoughts.

The garden was grown in glorious Dutch fashion, but with a slight twist: Large rockwool cubes were stacked on top of coco slabs, a departure from the all-rockwool or uniform-medium approach. It's very ingenious, and showed a certain level of consideration not only for organic farming, but for security and the environment as well,



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**AUTO PH ADJUST &
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A Super Silver forest of flowers that really talk.



Their tops grew so tall they must have ate the right side of the mushroom!

The plants themselves were stunning. Chunga feeds them via spaghetti lines that are fed from larger tubes hooked up to a 50-gallon-drum reservoir. There, a nutrient solution is mixed once a week and then dispersed twice daily for a few minutes at a time, depending on what stage the gardens are in. Timers activate pumps within the barrel reservoir to automate the feeding system. The garden itself sits atop a raised platform that is slightly angled to aid in drainage. All waters drain to waste after being collected in a run-off gutter on the side of the table. The gutter funnels the water through the wall into a bathroom with a sewer connection. This helps keep the rooms fresh and prevents pools of stagnant water from collecting.

The sweetest part, however, was the strain being grown—and not just because of its flavor (though it was very sweet-tasting). Although Chunga has been at this location for well over a decade, he's only been growing

because Chunga is able to reuse the coco slabs multiple times. Between crops, the coco fiber is treated with a small amount of lime to neutralize the pH and prevent possible root problems in the next round of plants due to pH fluctuations. Reusing the coco also means less-frequent trips to the dump and less pre- and post-processing of medium.

Additional security measures had been added as well, including industrial-strength carbon filters to cut down on the smell, and insulated fan boxes and soundproofing foam on the walls and windows to scale back noise. Contrary to popular belief in the US, growing marijuana for commercial production under artificial light is illegal in the Netherlands. (Small amounts cultivated outdoors for personal consumption are tolerated, but still iffy.) Unfortunately, for many growers, anything grown inside—especially a setup like Chunga's farm—requires just as much attention to security as it would in the United States. So Chunga takes extra precautions to protect his ladies.

this **Super Silver Haze** for the past 10 years or so. Before finally settling on the Haze, Chunga tried his luck with various strains such as **Hindu Kush**, **Super Skunk** and **Power Plant**.

"The decision was easy," Chunga said regarding his choice of the **Super Silver Haze**. And how could it not be? This specific phenotype was selected in the days when Shantibaba was still breeding (on his own) in Holland, almost 12 years ago. Those genetics are supposedly linked to the same lineage that Neville, the Godfather of Dutch breeding, developed himself.

This puts Chunga in a very favorable position with his market competitors. The **Super Silver Haze**, which is reminiscent of the **Jack Herer** strains of North America, is a widespread strain, used by Dutch growers all over Holland. Many new hybrids have hints of Super Silver in both their taste and smell. But Chunga's variety is a true original, making it easy for him to move his kilos to any coffeeshop he wants.

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Huge colas required every plant be staked.

Advice From a Caterpillar

It's always special to come back from a trip and realize that you've learned a lesson or two. And it's especially gratifying when those lessons help you grow beyond the garden.

Chunga is a man who thrives on being an outlaw. His spirit, although different from some, is really, in the end, a kindred one that we all share. I thought about this on the train back to Amsterdam. The trip, as usual, was very reflective for me.

Here, among the thousands of Cup-goers, you could find a whole range of people that you might expect at a cannabis convention. There were the small-time growers and hobbyists, the college students, the first-time smokers and the super-potheads. There were coffeeshop owners, seed breeders and seed-bank owners, commercial growers and large-format plantation operators ... and they were all here, in this country, in this town, at this venue, together at the same time and for the same reason. And yet I couldn't get my head around it—the one binding element that at the moment seemed to escape me, eluding my mind as I strived for that single revelation.

Then, suddenly, I remembered why I was here in the first place. Just like that, the very question that had started my day turned out to contain the answer. I remembered a conversation between a father and his confused son. I remembered him asking me the hard questions about life's priorities and about chasing money versus being happy. I remembered an uncle telling me that you had to live your life for yourself, and I remembered the day I took that first step, telling myself to never look back.

The truth is that we all have that moment buried somewhere deep inside. If you can dig deep enough to find it, you might just find that our answers are the same. If the person that you truly are is that inner person you believe in most, it's easy to understand why we do what we do. That is why we were all

Wonderland

here in Amsterdam: celebrating who we are and what we believe in, together.

Just then, the tall, lanky conductor stepped over, his multitude of hands seemingly reaching and grabbing for fruit on a tree that did not exist on the train. "Who ... are ... you?" he asked rather slowly.

"Excuse me?" I replied. "Me?" My heart jumped for a second. I was amazed at the idea that he could be asking me such a relevant question now, at this moment of epiphany.

"Yes, you. Who are you, to ride for free?" he continued in a jesting kind of tone. "Do you not have tickets then?"

"Ah, yes," I said, and feeling a bit disappointed, I handed him the mangled, peat-covered tickets from my pocket. What a strange day.

As the windmills whizzed by outside, I noticed that their arms were motionless. They just stood there, majestic and beautiful, as if time were standing still. What a perfect day.

I felt so good I almost cried. I again felt the same passion that once sparked that fire in each of us, calling us to duty, calling us to the cause.

Sometimes we may lose our way, get caught up in politics or money or greed or disputes—but it doesn't matter. Because for all the wrong stuff that we allow to go on in our world, there is still a kid somewhere smoking his first joint with his older brother, and there is still a new grower popping her first seed not too far away.

And here at the Cannabis Cup, with all its events and tapestries, it's good to know that there is still a harvest going down in a small village on the outskirts of town, devoid of any distractions. In the end, it's that freedom and love that it's really all about. It's what we do, and it's why we are family.

From one caterpillar to another, never forget "who ... you ... are." ✨

Special thanks to Jay Generation of Next Generation Seed Co. for his aid in reporting this trip

There's nothing quite like the sweet smell of freshly cut-off heads!



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strains of success

Whether you were there in Amsterdam with us, or missed out this time around, behold... here are the world's best buds of 2008.

Utopia Haze

1st Place *Sativa* Cup, Breeder's Buds & 2nd Place Cannabis Cup, Coffeeshop Buds Barney's Farm

How do they do it? Barney's Farm, once again taking home prestigious first place in the Breeder's Cup, have finally gotten their first win in the *sativa* category. It's mind-baffling how many Cups Derry and Sissi consistently take home, let alone the fact that this was their first top finish in *sativas*.

The **Utopia Haze**, a ludicrously pure Brazilian strain, is a straight jungle variety with absolutely no genetic modifications. The master growers from Barney's have kept the line pure, only back-crossing selected plants with stronger genetics from the same line, resulting in the stabilization of the desired phenotypes. Apparently, the celebrity judging panel desired these phenos too!

Grown both indoors and out, the Brazilian genetics lend themselves to warm climates and do particularly well under the sun's natural light. The initial selection for this plant was massive, with the growers planting over 3,500 seeds in an outdoor plantation. With a sweet and spicy Haze flavor and super *sativa* high, the **Utopia Haze** was a top pick across the board at this year's Cannabis Cup.

De La Haze

2nd Place *Sativa* Cup, Breeder's Buds Paradise Seeds

The **De La Haze** is an extremely potent *sativa* variety that has a beautiful aroma containing hints of citrus and mango, but with that typical dominant **Haze** scent.

The high is a creeper, but stays clear in the head and adds a pleasant and suiting body effect after a short while that helps balance the stone. In general, its euphoric, uplifting high is not psychedelic or trippy.

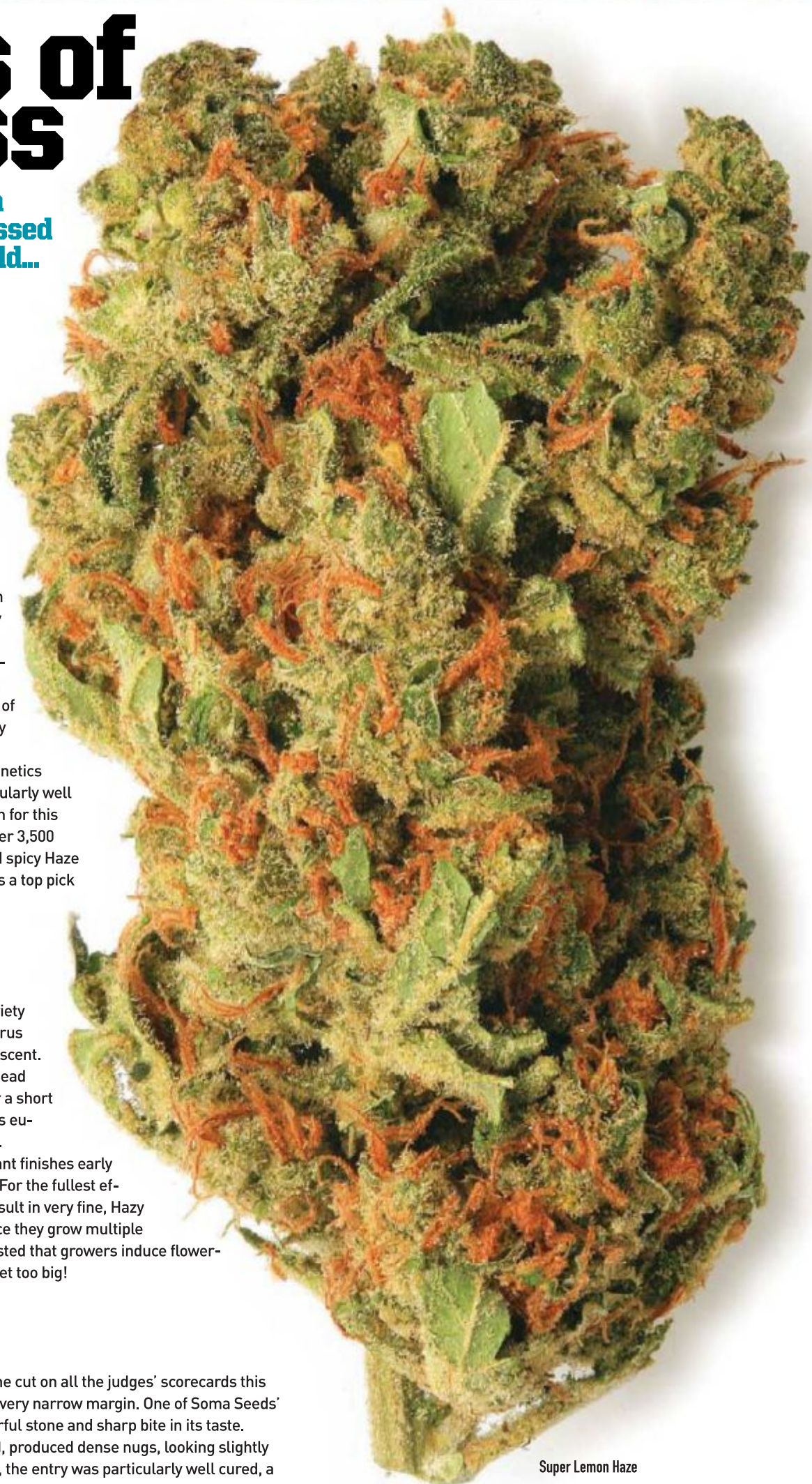
For growers, the yields are large, and the plant finishes early for a *sativa* (approximately nine weeks indoors). For the fullest effects, let her flower an extra week, which will result in very fine, Hazy *sativa* flowers. These plants will become fat, since they grow multiple branches filled with clusters of buds. It is suggested that growers induce flowering early on in the vegetative stage before they get too big!

Kushadelic

Nico's 2009 Cup Pick Soma Seeds

It was heartbreaking that this line didn't make the cut on all the judges' scorecards this year, but it missed placing in the *Indica* Cup by a very narrow margin. One of Soma Seeds' latest masterpieces, the **Kushadelic** has a powerful stone and sharp bite in its taste.

This plant, a hybrid of **OG Kush** x **G-13** (male), produced dense nugs, looking slightly darkish like an old **Bubba Kush** might. This year, the entry was particularly well cured, a



Super Lemon Haze

rarity for many strains grown in Holland. The buds ground up nicely and burned perfectly when rolled. The taste was sour and chronic—a true connoisseur's flavor, reminiscent of the original **Chem-D**.

Perhaps the best part of the **Kushadelic** was its cut-through high. Perhaps one of the most potent stones of the Cup, this was one strain you had to be careful not to smoke at the wrong time or you'd be at risk of getting lost, losing your cell phone and sitting in the park for hours. But then again, what else would you expect from Soma?

Mount Cook

1st Place *Indica* Cup, Breeder's Buds

Kiwi Seeds

Mount Cook (or *Aoraki*, as it's known among the Maori) is the highest and most majestic mountain in New Zealand, and Kiwi Seeds has certainly produced a plant that lives up to the name! During judging sessions high up in the Temple, **Mount Cook's** jar never left the top shelf. It was repeatedly challenged, but its deep *indica* stone and Kushy flavor dwarfed the other contenders.

Mount Cook is an *indica* hybrid, with the mother coming from **Afghani/Thai** roots. She was selected out of hundreds of females in a Kiwi Seeds breeding program that was carried out in NZ in 1998. She was picked for her short flowering times, THC content and compact structure, as well as her fruity taste and aroma.

The resulting plant was finally brought back to Holland in clone form, and after much trial and error crossing her with various males, a suitable pollen donor was found. The chosen father came in the form of a **Northern Lights** x **Hash Plant** that had been used in a previous hybrid from Kiwi Seeds called **Milky Way**.

Mount Cook comes with all those familiar *indica* characteristics: lovely deep-green leaves; short, thick stems and branches; plus fat, pungent buds coated in snow-like crystals.

The smoke is heavy and stony, almost paralyzing. Although a little longer than some *indic*as, **Mount Cook** has a reasonable flowering time and good yield, making her a great choice for indoor gardens.

Cheese

2nd Place *Indica* Cup, Breeder's Buds

Homegrown Fantaseeds

"Mouth-watering" is the only way to describe this year's **Cheese** rendition from Homegrown Fantaseeds. Of all the sweet tastes at this year's Cup, this strain was the clear winner on flavor. With strong hints of **Blueberry** and above-average potency, this *indica* was a clear challenger from the onset.

Afghani lineage provides this variety with its strength, which gives it a very sedating high with virtually no ceiling. Generally known to be a good yielder, this stocky plant is easily kept short for indoor gardens.

LSD

3rd Place *Indica* Cup, Breeder's Buds

Amnesia Seeds

Fast becoming a perennial contender, Amnesia did it again this year, absolutely knocking us out with their latest Sour rendition, the **Lemon Sour Diesel** (or **LSD**, as it was known around Amsterdam). This latest cut was comparable to last year's winning **Top Dawg**, though this version might be bigger on taste.

The **LSD** definitely took on a more citrus-like flavor, bolstering its already sour taste and adding a unique twist to what has always been a popular variety. Its cut-through **Sour Diesel** aroma resembles the true East Coast Diesel, known for its candy flavor and balanced high. However, its sourness probably comes from its grandparents, whose roots run deep to original Afghani genetics. Those genetics then produced the mighty **Mazar**, one of the direct parents of the **LSD**. The **Mazar** was crossed with another, older strain—an original **Skunk** variety that, if it's selected for, can also produce sourness rather than the sweetness that some newer Skunks are known for.

In the end, the final product carries the kind of powerful, stony high that one would expect from an award-winning *indica*. For those of you looking for a happy high and fresh flavor, this plant will make a great grow at home!

Super Lemon Haze

1st Place Cannabis Cup, Coffeeshop Buds

Green House

A phenomenon that is fast becoming a trend, the lemon flavor just can't be beat! And leave it to none other than Arjan, owner of the Green House chain of coffeeshops, to take it to the next level. Combining that super lemon flavor with his best **Haze** to create the **Super Lemon Haze**, Arjan once again has mastered his constituents' taste buds.

A subtle citrus aroma complements the fuller **Haze** smell that comes out of each nugget. The buds themselves are denser than your typical *sativa*, making yields on this plant surprisingly bigger than usual. The high associated with this smoke is uplifting and exciting: A good party-time bud, the buzz can carry you away and get you moving in the right direction.

As always, the Green House coffeeshops provided an excellent backdrop for this year's Cannabis Cup, and the final 4:20 party—which is held every year the day after closing ceremonies at the winning coffee house—was a class act. From the glass floors with koi fishponds underneath to the lavish wall paintings upstairs and great food and drink all around, the Green House never disappoints.

'This year's Choclope was the best grown choco that anyone on this staff has ever smoked.'

Choclope

3rd Place Cannabis Cup,

Coffeeshop Buds

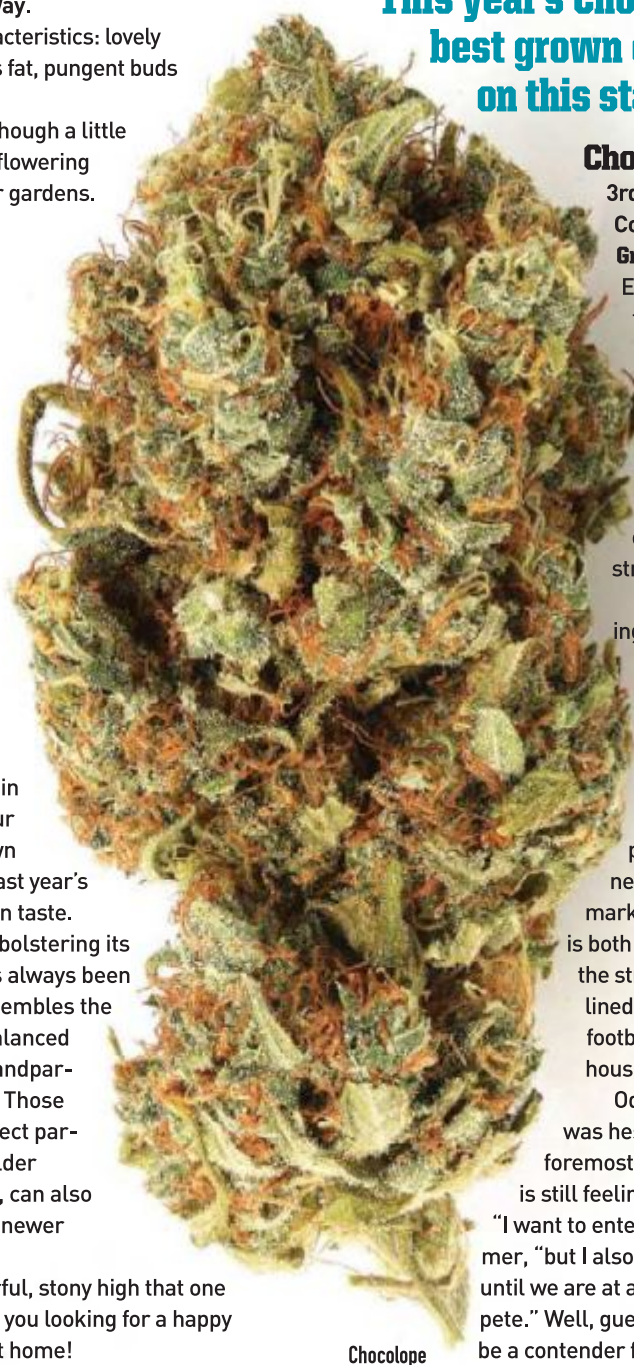
Green Place Coffeeshop

Entered by the Green Place Coffeeshop and originally developed by DNA Genetics, this year's **Choclope** was the best-grown choco anyone on this staff has ever smoked. An early HIGH TIMES staff pick, the 'lope was recommended to our judges as one of this year's Top 7 coffeeshop strains.

Looks like the judges agreed, voting the Green Place in as the Cinderella third-place finisher in their first year of competition! Trailing only the Green House and Barney's Farm, it was a hefty honor for the up-and-coming coffee house to place among the biggest players in Amsterdam. Situated near the middle of town in Nieuwmarkt Square, this spot has a vibe that is both modern and relaxed. Canals line the streets out front, but the interior is lined with flat-panel plasma screens for football matches, and the back of the house opens up a bit with a loungey feel.

Oddly enough, Mo, the shop's owner, was hesitant about entering the world's foremost cannabis competition, as his team is still feeling out their own grow operations.

"I want to enter," Mo told us earlier this summer, "but I also want to win. I don't want to enter until we are at a point where I know we can compete." Well, guess what? The Green Place looks to be a contender from here on out. Congrats, Mo! ✨



Choclope



Jack Flash
Sensi Seeds



Cataract
DNA Genetics



MK-Ultra
THSeeds



Starwarz
Bluebird Coffeshop



Kushadelic
Soma's Sacred Seeds



Kannasutra
Delta 9 Labs



Super Polm
Green House

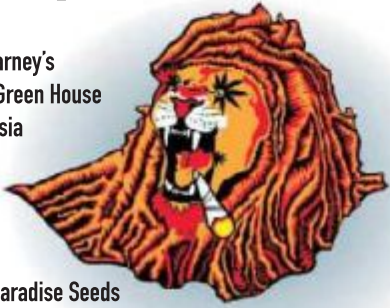


Grey Crystal
Grey Area

21st Cannabis Cup Winners

Import Hash

- 1. Triple Zero from Barney's
- 2. Super Polm from Green House
- 3. Shiraz from Amnesia



Nederhash

- 1. Grey Crystal
- 2. De La Haze from Paradise Seeds
- 3. Cannatonic from Resin Seeds



Green House Ice
Green House



Royal Jelly
Barney's



Triple Zero
Barney's



Shiraz
Amnesia



21st Cannabis Cup Winners

(Best Coffeeshop and Strain):

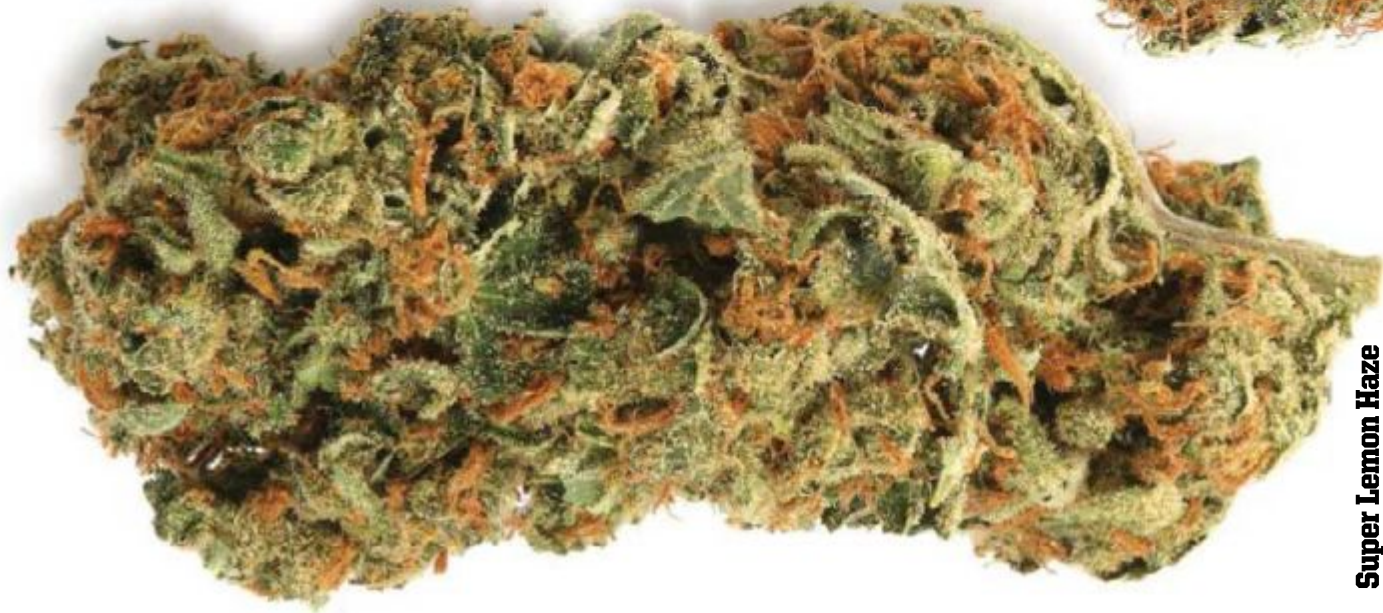
1. Super Lemon Haze from Green House United
2. Utopia Haze from Barney's Farm
3. Chocolope from Green Place

Seed Company - *Indicas*

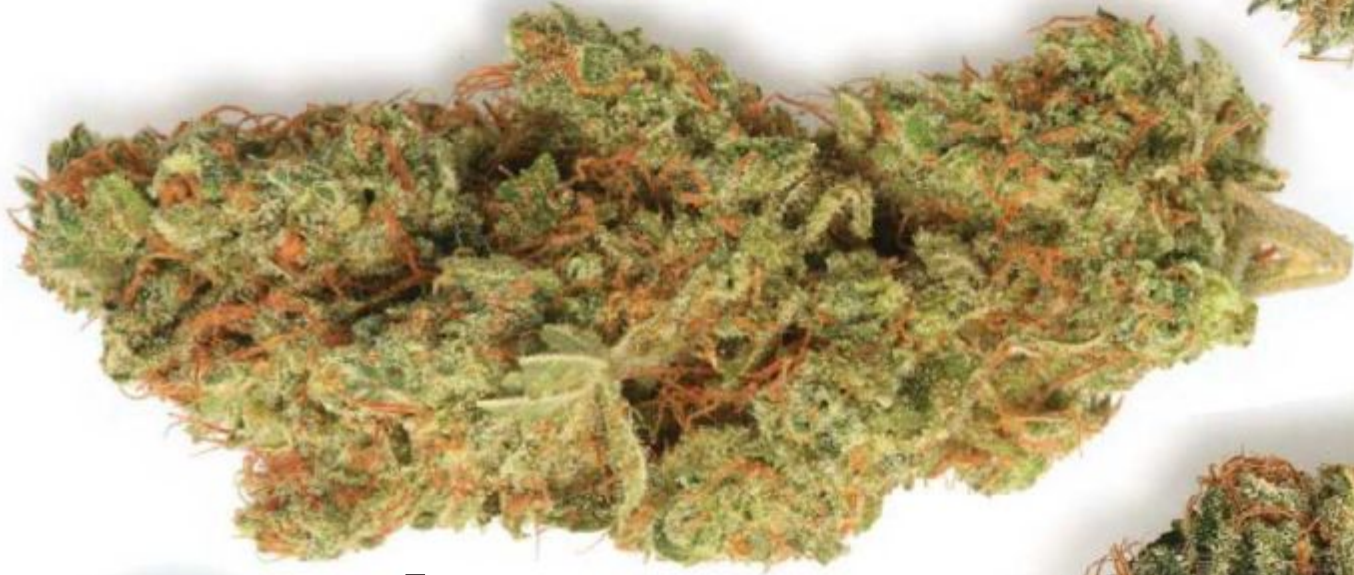
1. Mount Cook from Kiwi Seeds
2. Cheese from Homegrown Fantaseeds
3. LSD from Amnesia Seeds

Seed Company - *Sativas*

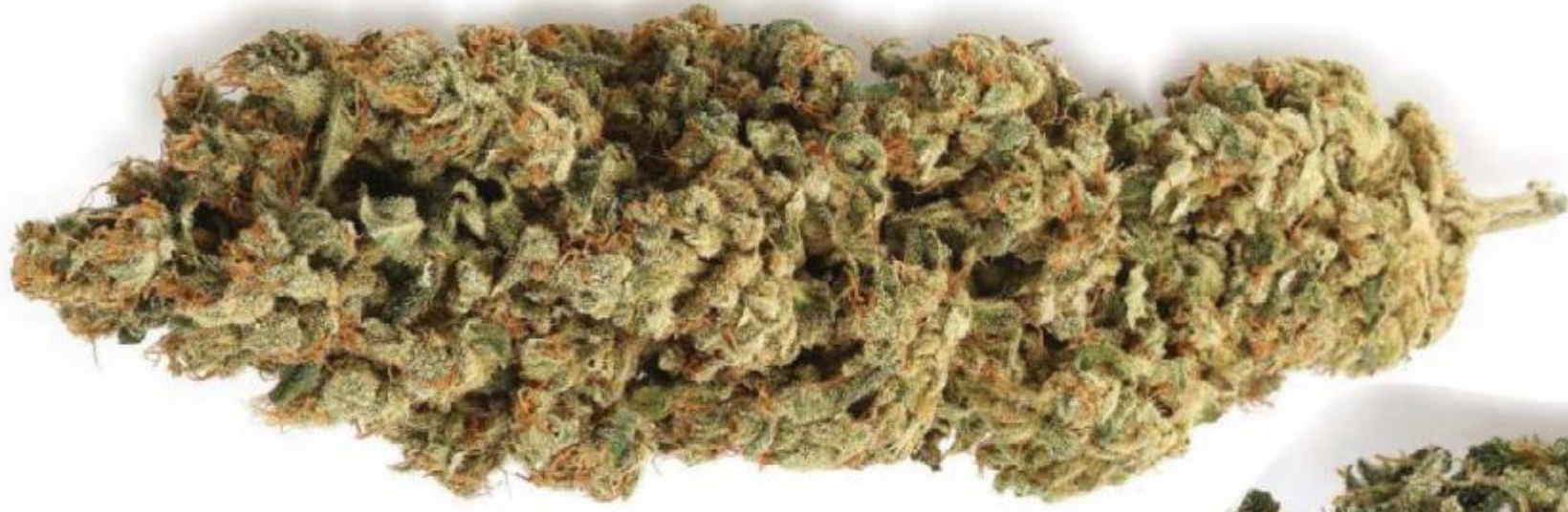
1. Utopia Haze from Barney's Farm
2. De La Haze from Paradise Seeds
3. Cannatonic from Resin Seeds



Super Lemon Haze
Green House United



Chocolope
Green Place



Cannatonic
Resin Seeds





De La Haze
Paradise Seeds



Mount Cook
Kiwi Seeds



Cheese
Homegrown Fantaseeds



Utopia Haze
Barney's Farm



LSD
Amnesia Seeds



Bubblemum Haze
Mellow Yellow
Coffeeshop



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Big Buddha Cheese
Big Buddha Seeds



S5
The Noon Coffeeshop



Rambo
THSeeds



420 Haze
420 Coffeeshop



Chiesel
Big Buddha Seeds



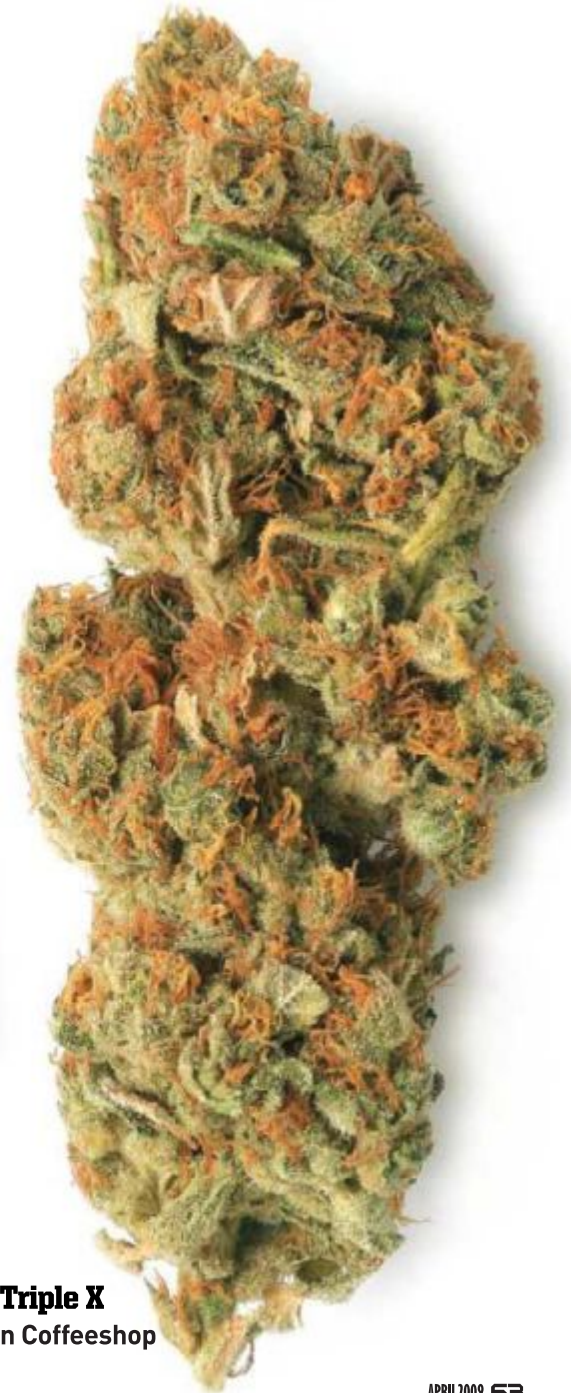
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HIGH TIMES takes it to the peaks, blazing up smoke shacks from coast to coast with our own smoking/shredding team. This time around, we hit the stony slopes with Bataleon team snowboarder Mark "Deadlung" Edlund. On a snowy June day, we chilled on a lift in the Rockies, speaking about the parallels between snowboarding and smoking. As we got higher, the only thing that felt better than the light snowfall was the Sour Diesel joint we passed back and forth during our session.

Story & photos by BIG CROPPA



Mark "Deadlung" Edlund weighs his options.

Hitting the rail after hitting the joint.

DEADLUNG'S NOW BOARDING



Wanna match bowls?

So, Mark, who gave you the nickname "Deadlung"?

I got my name from some guys that worked at my local skate/snow shop. Back in the day, I used to hook them up with some good trees and take tubes with them. One day while taking tubes, one of my friends was like, "Edlund? More like Deadlung!" They were stoked a 16-year-old kid was clearing the snaps like nothin', and then, of course, they soon realized that "dead" rhymes with the first part of my last name—and from there on out, I was Deadlung.

How long have you been getting ripped?

It's my 10-year anniversary this year!!

In most of your videos, you shred more urban surroundings than big mountains. Why?

I grew up skateboarding, so when I switched

from skiing to snowboarding, I always found myself trying to emulate the kind of shit you could do on a skateboard.

With a nickname like Deadlung, and a limited-edition snowboard with a big bud on the bottom of it, weed seems to be a big part of your life. What is one of your favorite memories regarding the great plant?

I would say the first time I snowboarded ripped—that day was amazing! I learned a couple new tricks that day, fo' sho'. Being high allowed me to look at things from a different angle that I wasn't seeing before. From that day on, it was just part of shredding for me.

What's your favorite thing to shred stoned?

Powder on a stormy day—all dark and misty, with no one around because it's such shitty weather and it's snowing and windy as hell. That way, your tracks fill in every run. I definitely step my weed game up on those days. Nothing's better than being way baked riding epic pow—and you can never be too stoned to ride powder.



Shacks double as rideable terrain.

You do a lot of traveling the world filming videos. What are some of your favorite bud flavors that you've tasted?

The best strain I've come across was called LA Confidential. We were at a premier in Humboldt County, and this homie gave me a whole ounce of it for free! The crazy part was, we only had two days left of the tour. Let's just say all our lungs were torn up by the end of that trip. When it breaks down, though, my real favorite is any sort of Diesel: Sour Diesel, Cotton Candy Diesel, Diesel, Diesel, Diesel—I love that shit. The strong aroma and taste you get? Nothing compares.

Look for Deadlung doing some cameos in new shred videos coming out this year, including Boz-Wreck 2 (which, fittingly, features a joint on the cover). You can also check out his crazy urban-style shredding on his websites, dead-lung.com and myspace.com/deadlung82.



Winter havens like this can be hard to find.

RUMOR HAS IT THAT THESE MASTERPIECES WERE CREATED BY A GROUP OF FRAMING CARPENTERS WHO DECIDED TO PUT UP SHACKS SO NICELY DESIGNED THAT NOBODY WOULD WANT TO TEAR THEM DOWN.

SHACK ATTACK

With all this talk about smoking and snowboarding, **HIGH TIMES** thought it only fitting that we put together our own team of riders and head out to hit the slopes in search of the ultimate stoner smoke shacks.

Big or small, smoke shacks are a part of every mountain's terrain and counterculture. They provide a common place for snowboarders and skiers to come together and take a break from the mountain weather, to puff down and relax before getting back to business. Also, some of the best nuggets we've ever been handed have come from a fellow smoker in some shack hidden on the side of a mountain resort.

This trip was no different. Stacked with a couple ounces of Bling and Chemdog and a badass crew of snowboarders, we went from shack to shack, resort to resort. We matched bowls, bongos and whatever else we could find to smoke out of with locals and fellow stoners, trying to get the scoop on these secret hemp havens.

You'll rarely just roll up on a smoke shack unless you wander out of bounds. Most of the folks that build these places create them for a core group of friends and spread the location by word of mouth, in order to keep them from getting torn down by the ski patrol or compromised by not-so-friendly authorities. So, with respect to the builders and stoners who enjoy these havens, we can only hope you'll be as lucky as us and find some kind locals to take you to a few of these amazing shacks, which can be found on ski slopes across the country.

The first time we went out, we were taken to a bunch of shacks that looked more like huts. These were built halfway into the ground and constructed using small trees and branches from the surrounding area. One of the huts had a log rail built into the roof that ran over the doorway of the shack, allowing some people to get ripped inside while others hit the rail just above their heads. After a proper "safety meeting," the team lined up to

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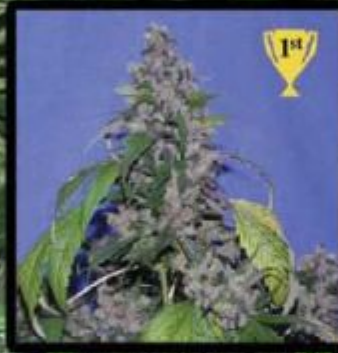
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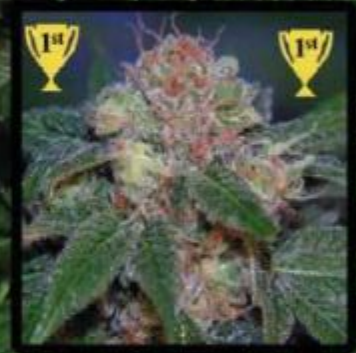
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...ground and demand it. Decriminalize Cannabis and instead of spending our tax dollars destroying lives, money could be spent on funding our schools and hospitals or used to reduce our debts. Legalize and tax Marijuana and the income generated can change our world. Grow and help the world grow too.

These female riders are ready to roll.



hit the narrow rail feature, which was tucked in between the tight trees.

On our second trip, we saw a few places that have to be considered among the crown jewels of smoke shacks. Actually, I don't know if calling them "smoke shacks" does them justice: People pay thousands of dollars for apartments that aren't anywhere near as well-built. Rumor has it that these masterpieces were created by a group of framing carpenters who decided to put up shacks so nicely designed that nobody would want to tear them down.

The shack that we were taken to was two stories tall and about 1,000 square feet inside. The multiple rooms had been decorated and tagged by various guests over the years: You could find scrawls from places as far-flung as Europe and Australia carved and painted onto the walls. In

Protect your head and your buds.

one of the rooms, there was a speaker system with a cord that allowed you to plug in your iPod while chilling. After another proper "safety meeting," the crew got back to work trying to one-up each other with tricks they could pull off this epic smoke hut. The guys launched off the roof pulling method airs and 180s.

On the second day of the trip, we were taken to a structure that was built about 20 feet in the air between a few trees. It looked like something out of Ewok Village in *Star Wars*. In order to get into the shack, you had to climb up a bunch of two-by-fours that were nailed between two of the trees supporting the structure. Once you reached the top, you were treated to an amazing view that took in the entire valley. At first, we didn't think we'd be able to fit all our guys up there, so we broke up into two teams to take turns catching a buzz in that insane "ultimate smoke tower." Like the one the previous day, this shack was tagged up and decorated with old snowboards and skis to give it a feel and a vibe that I've never come across in all my years of snowboarding.

On the last day of our trip, we took it a little easy and decided to hit up the smoke shack that our tour guide had built with a couple of friends over the summer. He said that it had taken them about two weeks to build, with handsaws, nails and some good chronic. "I got jealous of all these other places, so we decided to make our own," he

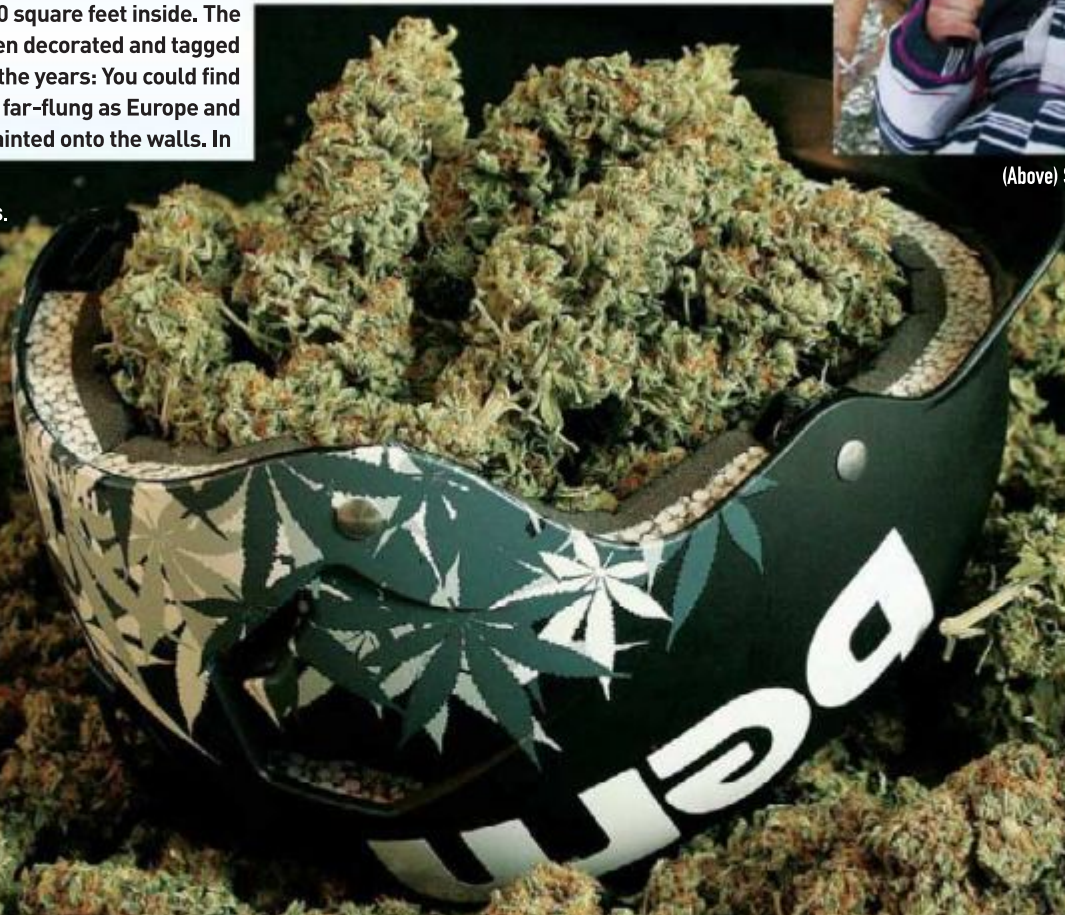
STONERS NOWBOARDING

told us. "Other than our local crew, you're the only peeps that we've brought to it. It may not be the biggest or baddest, but it's ours, and we rock the shit out of it."

If you're a stoner snowboarder or skier, smoke shacks are a part of your day on the slopes. There's always the "ganjola" and the lifts, but nothing compares to riding up to a proper smoke shack and sharing a phatty in comfort with some friends. So keep the smoke signals coming, and maybe one day you'll find our team rolling up to twist one with you!—BC



(Above) Stop! Locals only beyond this point.



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KINKY AS KINKY CAN BE

The HIGH TIMES Interview with Kinky Friedman. By David Bienenstock

This could have been Kinky Friedman's year. Instead, three days after one of the most historic elections in the history of democracy, he's sitting on a patio chair outside a random hotel in Bethesda, MD, contemplatively smoking a cigar and talking politics with two reporters from HIGH TIMES. Meanwhile, Barack Obama has just electric-landslided his way into office on a wave of young and first-time voters—the exact crowd that Friedman, a former chess prodigy and songwriter turned best-selling author, tried to attract three years ago, when he earned 13 percent of the vote as an independent candidate in a three-way race for Texas governor.

It's been an unlikely journey every step of the way for the man affectionately known as “the Kinkster.” A Jew raised in Texas, he found his first round of fame as the kind of cowboy singer who croons songs like “Asshole from El Paso,” “They Don't Make Jews Like Jesus Anymore,” “Get Your Biscuits in the Oven and Your Buns in the Bed,” and “Ride 'Em Jewboy”—a personal tribute to the victims of the Holocaust. And while it may not sound like a winning (or even a welcome) act on paper, by letting both the rednecks and the city slickers in on the joke, Kinky and his band of Texas Jewboys rode all the way to gigs on *Saturday Night Live* and at the Grand Ole Opry—not to mention a slot on Bob Dylan's legendary 1976 “Rolling Thunder Revue” tour.

Then, in our September 1981 issue, HIGH TIMES published “My Scrotum Flew Tourist,” and Kinky Friedman began a new, equally unlikely career as a writer of quirky detective novels, almost all of them featuring a familiar, homespun-out narrator named Kinky Friedman. A jokey, folksy and often drunk private investigator, Kinky Friedman—much like his real-life counterpart—eventually found his way into people's hearts, and soon the books (with titles like *Armadillos and Old Lace*, *The Mile High Club*, and *Kill Two Birds and Get Stoned*) began to build a cult readership that would grow to include fans as diverse as Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Both presidents invited Kinky to the White House for a visit, and both consider the foul-mouthed firebrand a personal friend. Not that either of them showed up to offer his personal endorsement when Kinky tried to add the job of Texas governor to an already impressively weird résumé. Maybe it had something to do with the fact that the Kinkster calls tequila “Mexican mouthwash,” promoted his close friend Willie Nelson as the next head of Texas law enforcement, and got himself embroiled in scandal on the campaign trail after drinking a Guinness on a moving float while he was grand marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dallas.

For the record, Mr. Friedman maintains that while he did drink the beer in question, he did not swallow. Either way, we began our interview by showing Kinky a copy of his 1981 masterpiece from the pages of HIGH TIMES.

Do you remember when you wrote that?

Yeah, this was my first published piece of prose. “My Scrotum Flew Tourist”—still one of my best, I'm afraid. I had only written songs before that. I haven't written a song in 25 years now, and don't plan on doing so, for some reason. But sometimes I still hear music in my head as I'm writing.

As part of your run for governor in 2006, you promised to legalize marijuana in Texas. Why did you do that, and what was the reaction from voters?

The reaction was mixed. But it's obviously a great idea: All law enforcement I've talked to agree with me that decriminalization is the way to go. The War on Drugs is not only a failure, but also a real waste of law-enforcement resources. We don't even have room for the pedophiles or the politicians in prison anymore, because we've got so many really minor cases of somebody busted for dope. The answer is putting money into education and treatment. Then you'd see a big difference.

You're close friends with America's most famous marijuana smoker, and a fellow Texan, Willie Nelson. Was he somebody you discussed this issue with before you came out in favor of legalization?

Sure. Willie has advocated changing the marijuana laws for a long time—not by sermonizing, but by living. He's a man that admits to being 75 years old, maybe older, and he plays music for a couple of hours—and then signs autographs for a couple more hours—every single night. You'd think he'd be forgetting all his lyrics and screwing up all the time and stumbling around, but that doesn't happen. I've asked Willie on numerous occasions about this—why he smokes dope, what's his main reason—and he says: “To keep down the rage.” Which I think



Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar (as opposed to a blunt).

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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW



Kinky reads up on his good friend Willie Nelson, a.k.a. "the Hillbilly Dalai Lama."

is a very good answer.

Willie Nelson is living proof that you can lead not only a very successful life, but also a very inspiring life to millions and millions of people, all while so high you need a stepladder to scratch your ass. The last time I was with him, for some reason the dope had an effect that made me extremely happy for hours afterwards. If everyone in the world could feel that good and not cause any harm, there is no reason not to decriminalize marijuana.

You joined the Peace Corps after college. Do you sense that kind of service coming back into our society?

John F. Kennedy inspired millions of people—myself among them—to work for 11 cents an hour on the other side of the world, and to really enjoy it. In fact, many of us think it's the best work we've ever done. If Obama can get that going, he'll really have something. I also think that if a black man can be elected president, a Jew can certainly be elected governor of Texas. I think he's made it easier for me.

One of the things that Obama promised during the campaign is that he'll stop the federal government from interfering with the 13 states that have passed medical-marijuana laws. That's great—because the big problem I have with Democrats in general is that some of them believe that the government is worth a shit.

If medical marijuana is a states'-rights issue, why do you think Republicans have been unwilling to embrace it?
Because they're hypocrites.

Meanwhile, Obama has admitted to smoking marijuana in his youth, but it never really became an issue during the election. Do you think that society's attitudes have shifted?

Yeah, I hope they have. Setting priorities is really important—not only for the president, but for the culture as a whole. And if your priority is to hound and pursue marijuana smokers, that's part of a larger trend that's turning our country into a condo association. We already have enough rules—we don't need *more* rules. The same people that were hall monitors when they were young, they grew up and now they're anti-pot people.

George W. Bush is a fan of your mystery novels and invited you to stay at the White House while he was president. How did a guy with such good taste end up shitting the bed so royally?

Bush had some good people around him—he really did. If he'd listened to Laura and his daddy and me, and Condi Rice and Colin Powell, he'd have a real legacy now. But instead, he listened to some bad angels. If you listened to people like Karl Rove and Dick Cheney every morning, your life would be a total disaster too.

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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

Do you think pot has gotten stronger since the '70s?

Well, it *seems* to be stronger, or maybe I'm getting older and less resistant to it. I'm not a connoisseur—I just smoke whatever Willie's smoking. Of course, that's a very high standard. Friends of mine who are big dopers who I've introduced to Willie, several of them have just been absolutely blown away, to the point where they can hardly walk. But it didn't seem to affect me, except to make me really happy. And some of that might be just being with Willie, who is definitely the hillbilly Dalai Lama.



Is Texas ready for a Kinky Governor?

Where do you do most of your writing?

I like to write in Texas and Hawaii. I find that even when I'm writing about New York, I do it better on my ranch in the Texas hill country than I do if I'm actually *in* New York. The further you move away from your subject, the more imagination you need to summon up in order to see it clearly.

Do you still enjoy performing as a musician?

Well, not like Willie does. Willie would like to play at your funeral very much; he'd play at your wedding, he'd play at your bar mitzvah—and he does not care which it is. Meanwhile, I'm very ambivalent about performing. There are a few moments where I obtain a Judy Garland-like relationship with the audience during a performance, and those I genuinely enjoy.

Do you think country music has lost its outlaw appeal?

Well, the pendulum has certainly swung the other way. And that's too bad. What Willie and Waylon [Jennings] were trying to do was just for an artist to be able to come up with his own ideas, and his own hours and his own people he wanted to surround himself with, instead of the record company doing all that for him. Today, it's a really fast business, and if you don't have a hit, you're done and nobody else wants you—which is just as well, because you probably weren't very good to begin with. Most of the country stars and the country stuff on the radio, you really have to listen to at gunpoint. What has happened to the cleverness in country music that Roger Miller, Shel Silverstein and Kris Kristofferson brought to it? I don't know, but that's gone, too.

At one point on the famous Nixon tapes recorded in the Oval Office, the

'I'm not a connoisseur—I just smoke whatever Willie's smoking.'

former president tells a high-level White House staffer: "You know, it's a funny thing, every one of the bastards that are out for legalizing marijuana is Jewish. What the Christ is the matter with the Jews?" As a Jew out for legalizing marijuana, care to respond?

That's a strange thing for Nixon to say, except for the fact that the Jews have always been ahead of their time. The Jews have always done interesting and adventurous things; they are artists of humanity. And an artist, as I've always defined it, is someone who's ahead of his time and behind on his rent.

Jews are also the Detective Colombos of the world: always on the outside looking in and observing what's really going on. Many of us have been *participant* observers, and that includes marijuana.

Will you run for governor of Texas again in 2010? And if so, will you continue to call for the legalization of marijuana?

Maybe—and yes. ✨

Read Kinky Friedman's first-ever published writing, "My Scrotum Flew Tourist," from our September 1981 issue, by logging on to hightimes.com/kinkyfriedman/. For more information on Kinky's Utopia Animal Rescue Ranch in Medina, TX, log on to utopiarescue.com.

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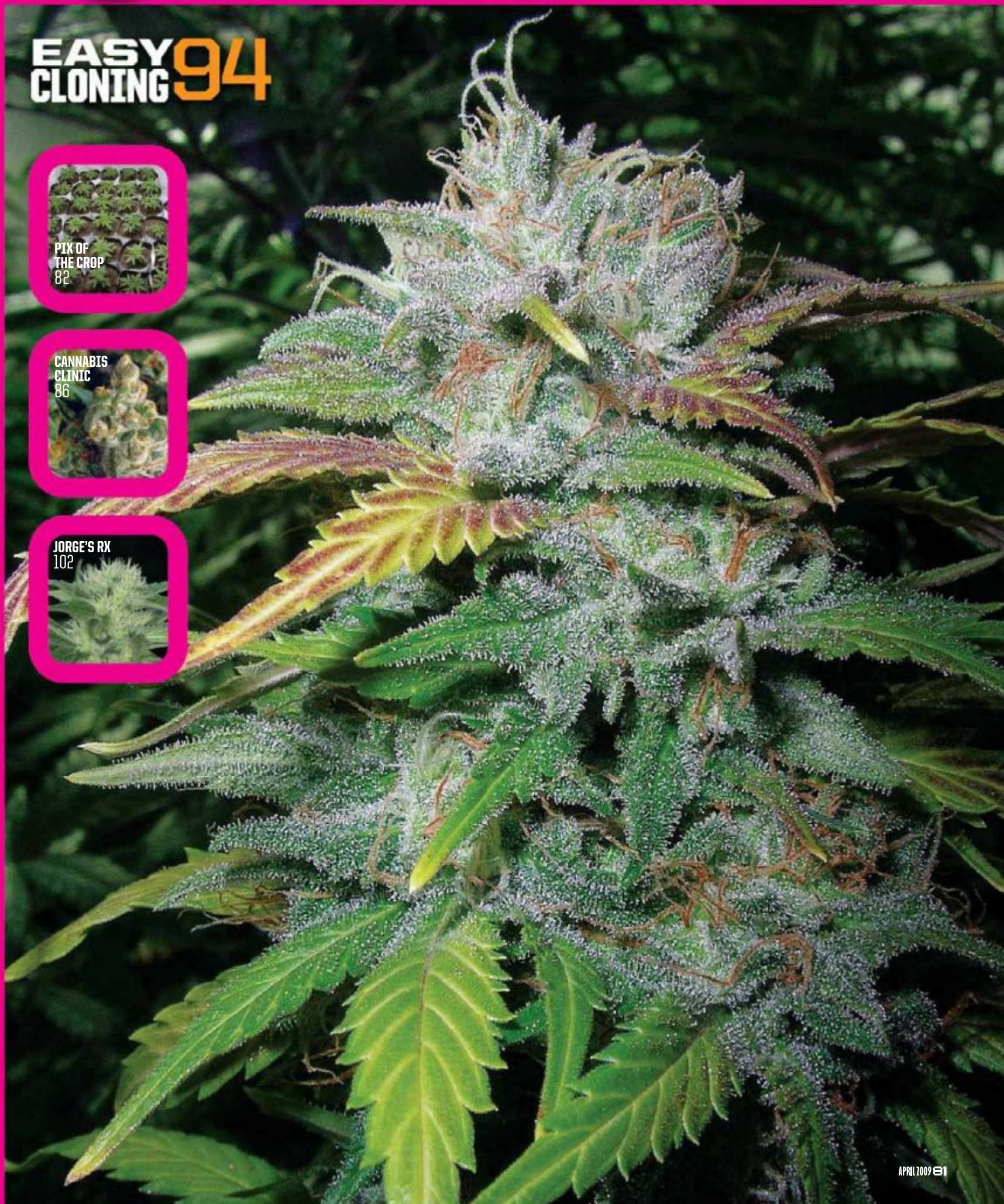
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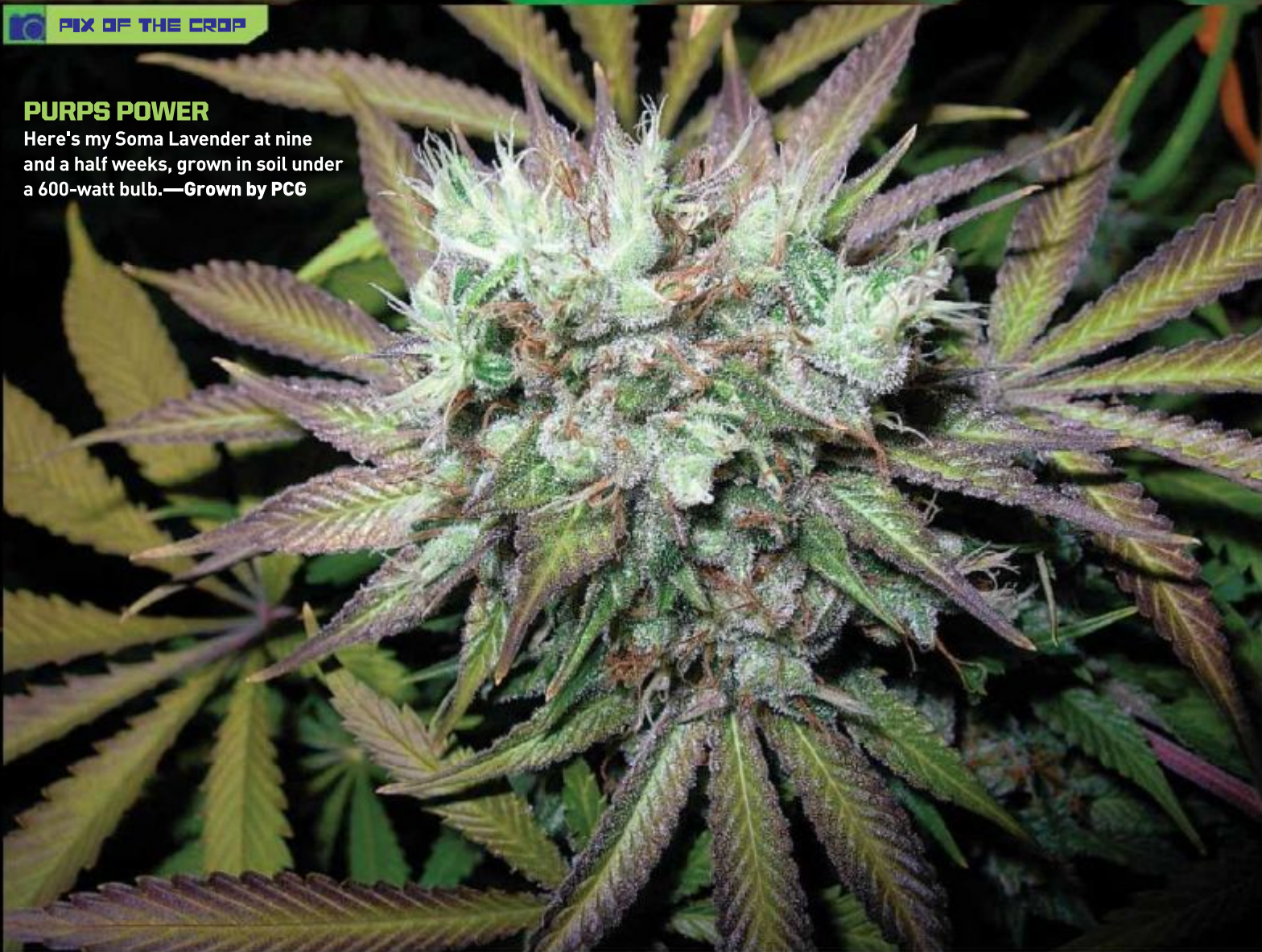


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PURPS POWER

Here's my Soma Lavender at nine and a half weeks, grown in soil under a 600-watt bulb.—Grown by PCG

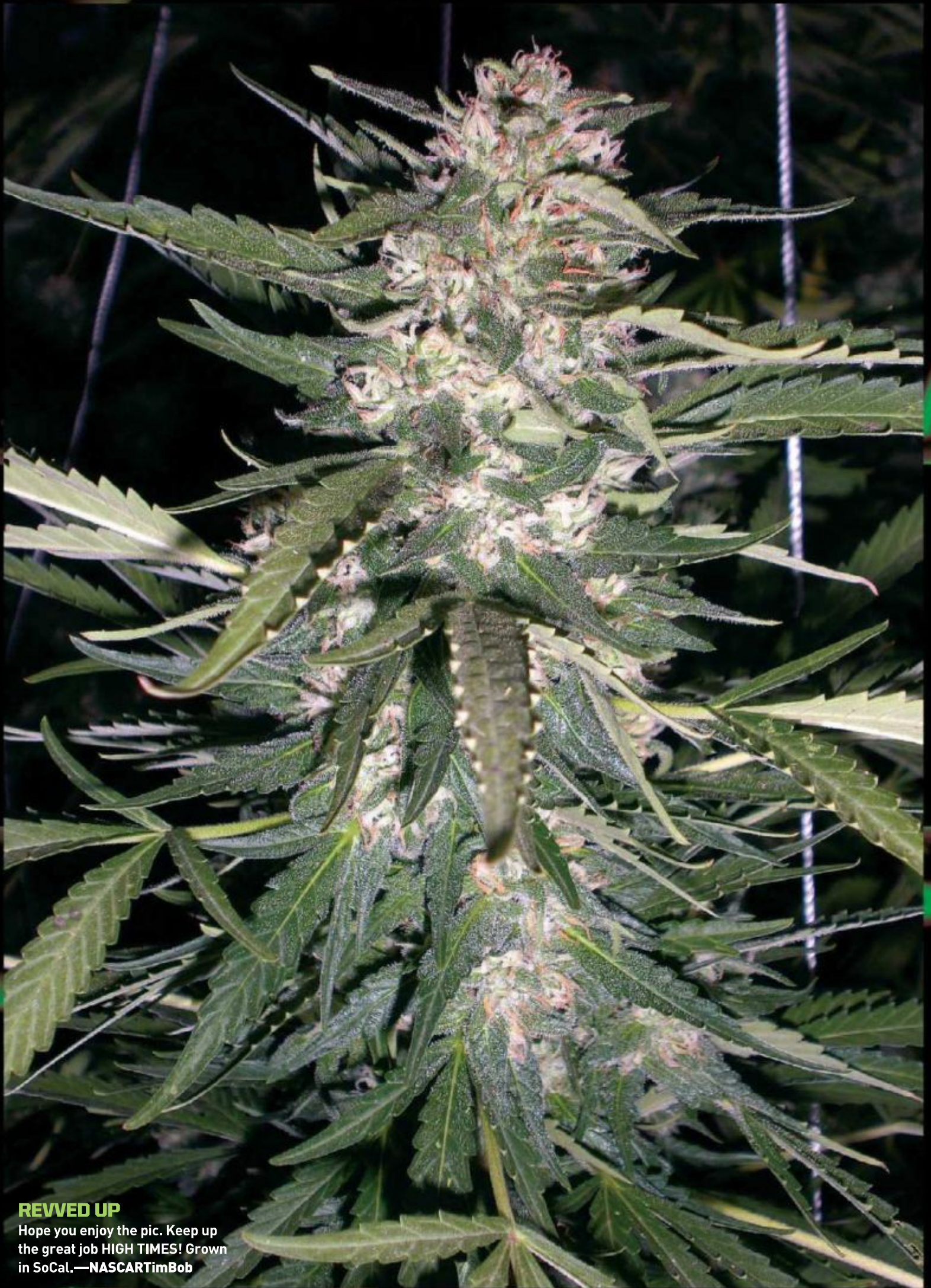


TWILIGHT STONE (above)

Picture, if you will, 50 lovely ladies reduced to their essential desirable muskiness. Bad porn movie? No, you're in the "Medzone" in Southern Trinity County, CA.—Mike

BUD BOUQUET (left)

Some flowers for my friends at HT.—Rebecca



REVVED UP

Hope you enjoy the pic. Keep up the great job HIGH TIMES! Grown in SoCal.—NASCARTimBob

A



LADIES IN WAITING

Got a nice pic for ya :) Have a great day!—Robb



HIGH HOPES (above)

I hope you enjoy my backyard. I owe it all to HIGH TIMES. I've been enjoying cannabis and your magazine since the '70s. Jorge is my Guru. These photos of my 2008 crop were taken just a few days before the historic passage of the lowest law enforcement priority of cannabis ordinance. I keep pinching myself because I can hardly believe that every adult on the Big Island is free to grow a garden just like mine. Keep the hope alive. Start your own ballot initiative! Stay Active! Peace! —Big Ade

WRECKED! (left two)

My last medical grow of Purple Wreck (Purple Urkel x Trainwreck) from Reserva Privada Seeds.—Trogdor



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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