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NOV 418

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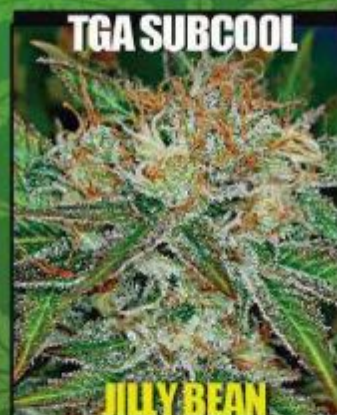
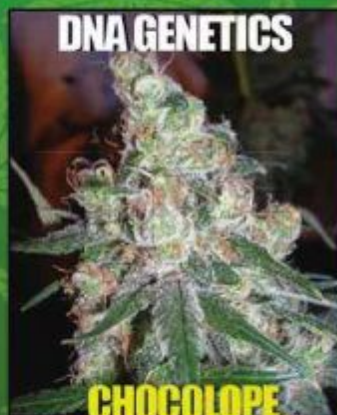
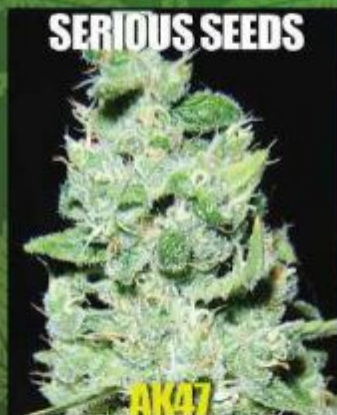
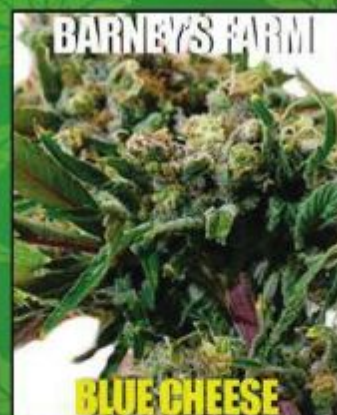
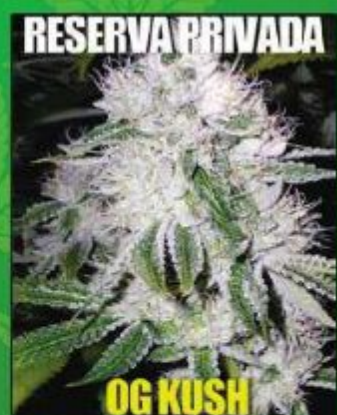
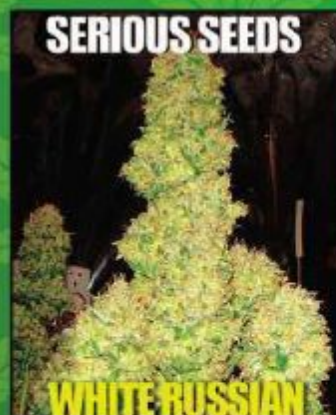
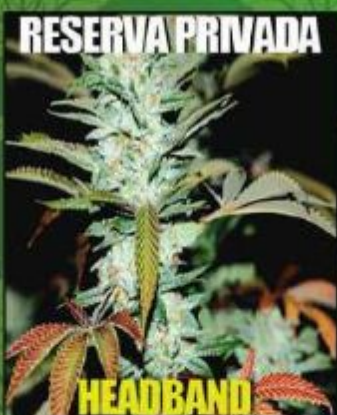
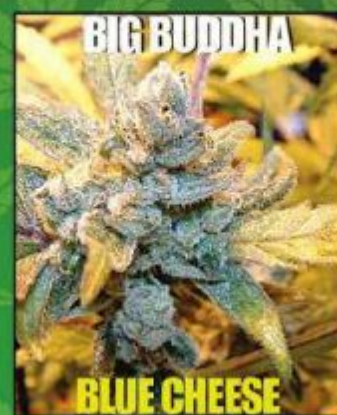
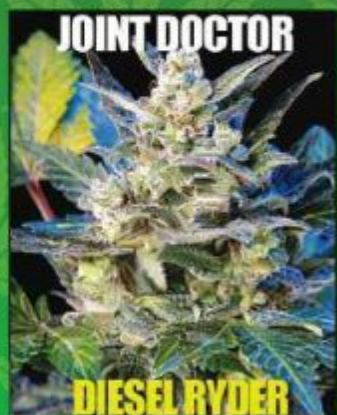
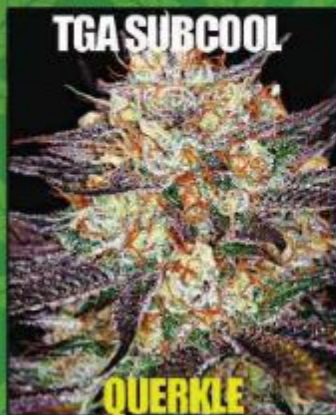
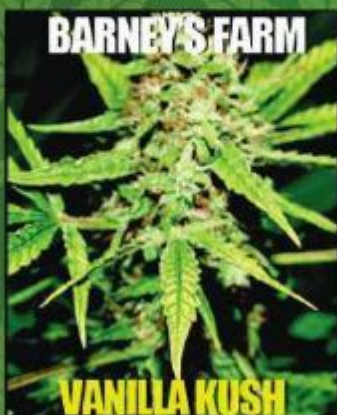
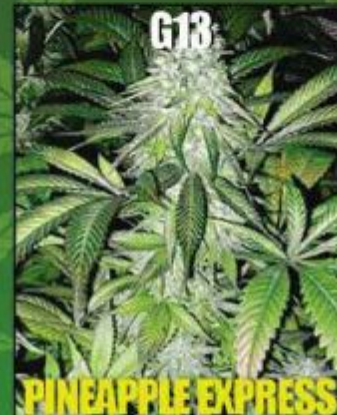
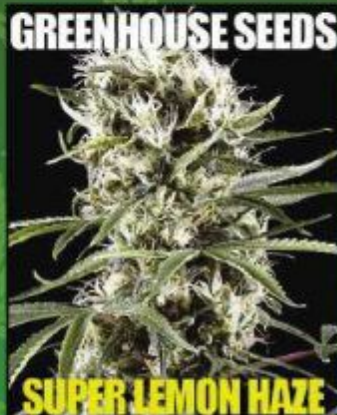
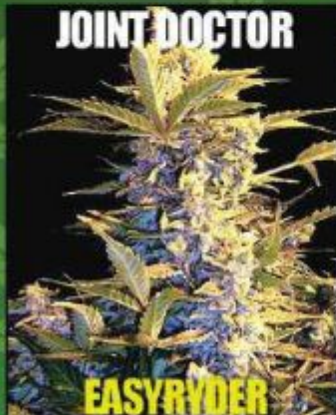
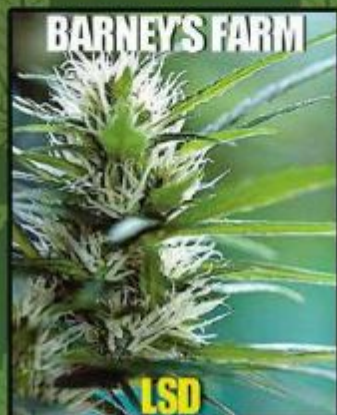
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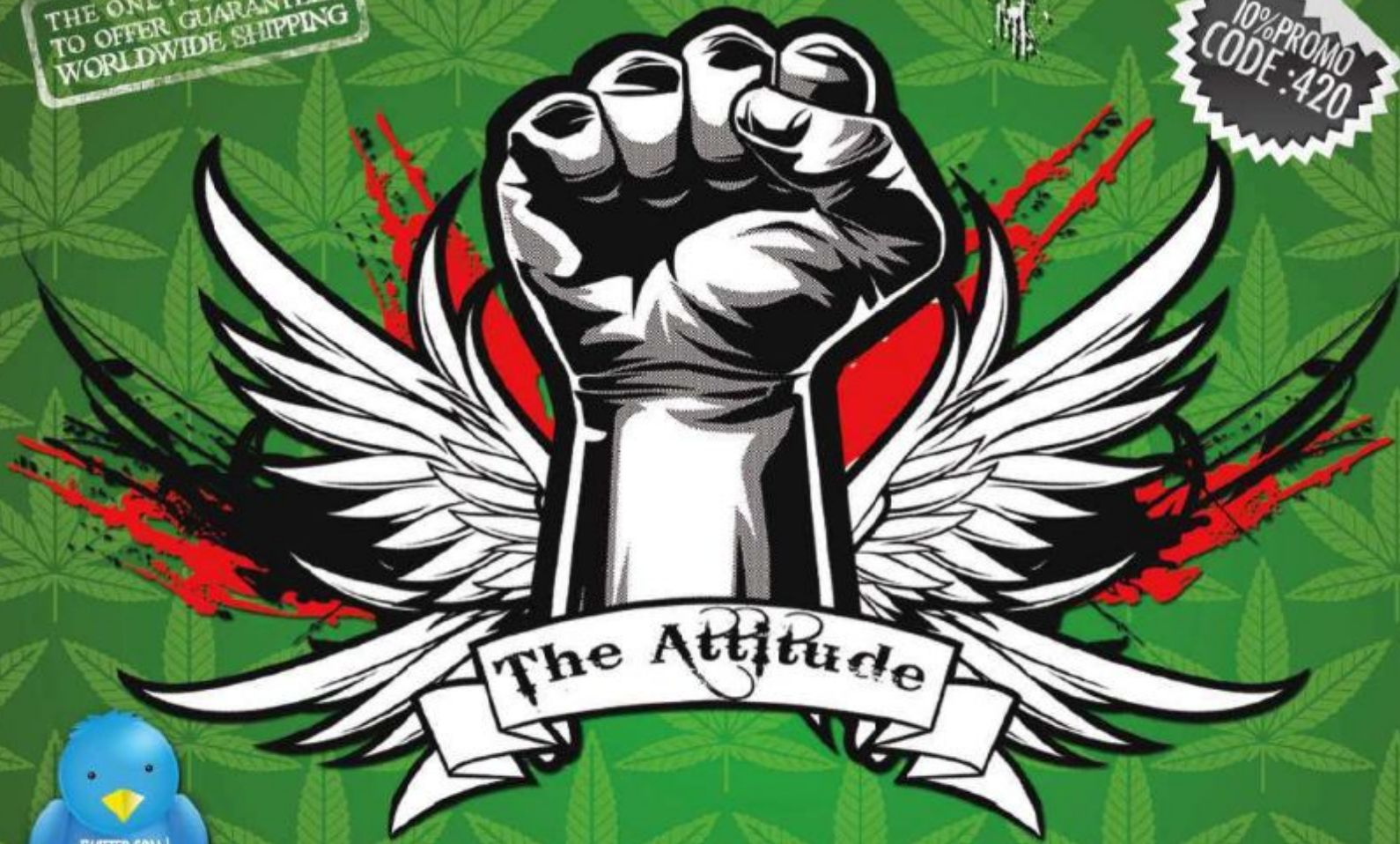
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The cannabis community convened at the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup.

DANNY DANKO

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

If, perhaps via some hot-box time machine, a copy of this magazine—HIGH TIMES, November 2010—somehow landed in my hands way back in November of 1994, when I was a college freshman who could barely grow a beard, I can certainly say without a doubt that it would have blown my freaking mind!

First of all, the knowledge that I'd someday be the Senior Editor of this venerable publication would have gotten me through a few of those potless nights on campus with a much-improved outlook on life. But more importantly, I'd have marveled at the fact that the entire state of California could be just about to *legalize it*—once and for all—and that the city of San Francisco had grown pot-friendly enough to host the First Annual HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup (see page 62) in all its ganja glory.

Heady days indeed!

For my feature story on Proposition 19, the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010 (see page 76), I spoke at length with Richard Lee, the pot entrepreneur behind Oaksterdam University and the man who put up more than a million of his own dollars to get the initiative on the ballot. I also traveled to Humboldt County, to investigate how legalization would affect Northern Cali's traditional breadbasket of marijuana and learn what the Emerald Triangle's legendary growers are doing to get ready.

What I found there was a mix of fear and excitement, along with the pervasive sense that this state is about to make marijuana history once again. In 1996, another ballot initiative, Proposition 215, made California the first state to legalize medical marijuana—and as the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup definitively proved, the Golden State's patients and providers have never looked back.

Highest regards,

David Bienenstock
Senior Editor, HIGH TIMES



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BY DAN SKYE

A year ago, the Colorado medical scene was a free-for-all, with thousands of entrepreneurs jumping into the game. Now that's all changed, and only the strongest businesses will survive in a new era of government oversight.

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Contributor Mr. Hades returns with a simple and informative guide to producing connoisseur-quality organic pot in your closet or other small grow space. Create a living soil filled with beneficial microbes whose symbiotic relationship with your plants' roots will help create the ultimate medicine.

52 GROWIN' IN THE 'DAM

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

Amsterdam—the city where the modern weed-growing era began, where indoor horticulture first met fine cannabis genetics. Thirty years later, what has changed, and what's stayed the same? Nico checks out some of the best Dutch grow ops to explore just where Holland is these days on the grow-room radar. Hydro, technology and genetics are all discussed—and he also gets a very rare glimpse into the Bedrocan lab, a medical-marijuana facility sanctioned by the Dutch government!

62 SAN FRAN GRAND SLAM

For two days, San Francisco hosted thousands of medical-marijuana patients, providers, activists and cultivators at the first-ever HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup, including an incredible competition to name the top medical marijuana in California.

76 TEA PARTY!

BY DAVID BIENENSTOCK

California's cannabis revolution rolls into the ballot box this November, but are voters really ready to legalize it?

86 BIG J ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

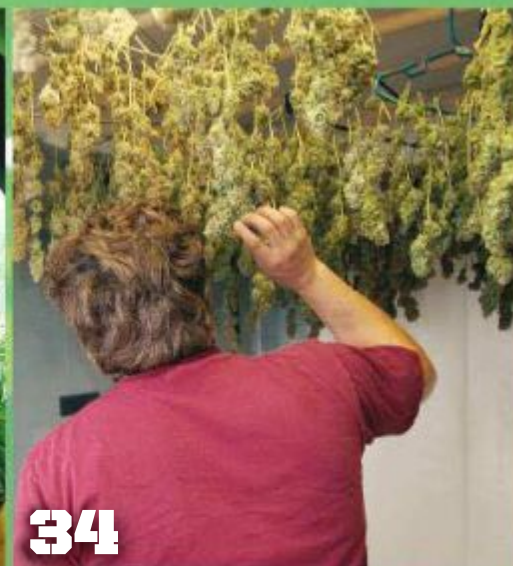
BY DAVID BIENENSTOCK

The HIGH TIMES Interview with former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson.

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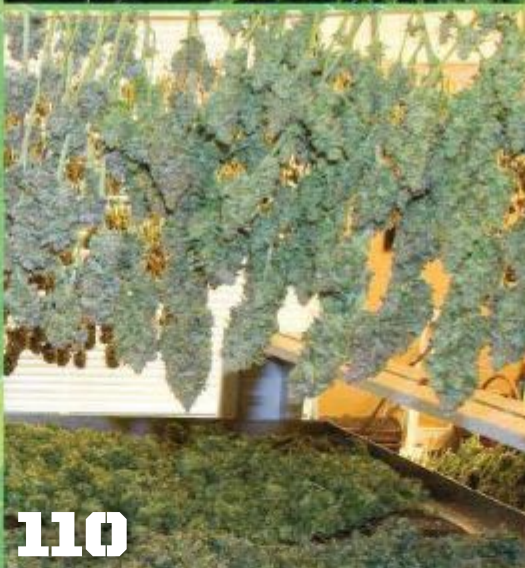
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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

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EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO

Pix of the Crop; Cannabis Clinic; Munchies; NORMLizer; Freedom Fighter; Dr. Mitch; SSDP Report; Optimize Your Growing Environment, by Erik Biksa; Dear Danko.

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CALI LEGALIZATION

I was hoping to get a little more insight on the November election about legalizing marijuana in California. From what I've been reading, this bill does not seem like the best thing for the state, the grower or the smoker.

What I've read: If the bill passes, marijuana will be commercialized, prices will go down, and growers will not be able to afford to grow. This will ultimately lower the quality of the smoke. Also, if this becomes commercialized, who's to say that a company like Philip Morris won't take over—and we've all seen what they put in cigarettes!

I do understand that the state needs the revenue—*bad*—but this may destroy some areas that really depend on making their living from growing and selling marijuana. I would love for this plant that God gave us to be legalized, but at what cost? I hope I'm not suffering from paranoia, so I would love to hear your opinion on this.

Steve

Read more about the CA ballot on page 76.

WHEE 2010

It was wonderful to meet Steve Hager in person, and being a part of the local hemp festival was exciting—I was glad to participate!

Peace and hempy healing,

Darcy

MONTANA MASSACRE

I just finished reading the September '10 HIGH TIMES—fantastic issue! The thing that stunned me the most in this issue was the blurb on the Montana dispensary firebombings. While anger is the typical response, all I have is disappointment. It's bad enough that marijuana is *already* used to excuse wasteful spending by the federal government as well as our ghastly high prison-inmate rates—but now it's being used as an excuse to fire-bomb businesses! I don't get this; the anti-marijuana activists may have done our work for us. Now I'm reminded of far more serious past oppressions because of the attacks on these dispensaries. I was wondering if you all think a fund would be necessary for the owners of these places? I know there have been far more devastating disasters this year and last, but it would be horrifying to think that the owners could go bankrupt or would have to wait a great deal of time for the money to reopen. If you guys think it's a serious enough cause, I would like to give them \$100. Thanks for the wonderful magazine!

Andrew

FUNKY IN KENTUCKY

With respect, I write to you today on your article about Kentucky in the September issue, which rendered a perfect image of what life in Kentucky is like. Living here, I was glad to know that we have a little of "the scene" in our state—and yes, the backwoods around here are fields of fun. Well,



HT staff, keep doing your thing—we can hold it down in Kentucky all night long!

Chris

BUBBLING BUCKETS

As I was reading your article on recirculating deep-water culture (RDWC) in the August issue, it took me back to high school, when I wished I could smoke the most exotic weed known to man—and also that I knew how to grow some awesome pot! I remember someone told me about "aeroponics" in math class; he said the

plants were grown in the air and the roots were misted every so often. Little did I know that he was only half right! It blew my mind as to how the hell it was done—until last year, when I tried to grow, and deep-water culture (DWC) was my first attempt. I've been getting better at it ever since—with some help from HIGH TIMES! You guys rock! Smoke on!

El Dedo Verde

APPS FOR HEADS

I've been wondering what apps would be best for my 'Droid while I'm high. I think it would be really useful to know what we can do to entertain ourselves with our iPhones or Androids, so it would be cool if you ran an article on all the best apps for someone that's high.

Ammon

Download HIGH TIMES' new app, Cannex, at hightimes.com/app.

CLEAN CUP, MOVE DOWN

I found the article in your August issue about the Tea Party, "Wal-Mart Hippies on the March," to be slightly off. Paul Krassner focused on the Glenn Beck/Sarah Palin side of the Tea Partiers (which I believe he characterized excellently, by the way). But why not focus on the Ron Paul/Rand Paul side of the Tea Party, which is fighting for freedom and liberty—including the freedom to smoke and sell pot! I think it's always more advantageous to point out potential allies instead of commenting on loudmouthed enemies. I think the Tea Party candidates being nominated in many states could be the means to spread the policy of ending marijuana prohibition.

Thanks for your time, and keep up the good work! PS: I loved the article on hash.

Ethan

ERRATA

In the September 2010 issue, the Chronic Cocktail Hat worn by Natasha Lewin was created by milliner Katie Burley. For more information, check out katieburley.com.

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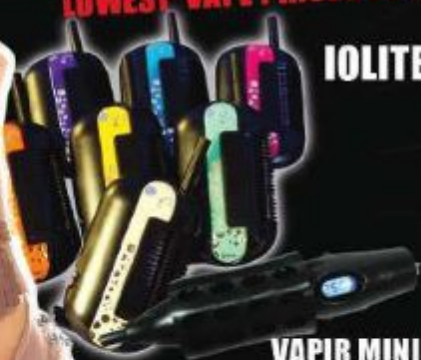
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HT Managing Editor Natasha Lewin checks out Big Bambú.

BAMBOOZLED

Even high art has gotten, well, *high* ... in more ways than one! Artists (and twin brothers) Doug and Mike Starn have built a bonanza of bamboo atop the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan. The installation, dubbed *Big Bambú*, is a continuous work in progress that, at its highest point, will measure 50 feet above the Met's already impressive rooftop garden. Boasting over 7,000 poles, *Big Bambú* is a constantly changing structure that resembles either a giant bird's nest or cresting wave, complete with 25- to 40-foot elevated pathways that can be traversed only via a guided tour.

Mike and Doug got their inspiration for the installation's name back in their high-school days in the '70s, when their long hair and identical-twin status earned them the moniker "Cheech & Chong." As they were planning and building their massive bamboo structure, they nicknamed it "Big Bambú" after the famous C&C album, and the name stuck.

Big Bambú will be open until October 31 (weather permitting). For more info, go to metmuseum.org.

KICKING COCAINE

In Bogotá, Colombia, just before the conclusion of the World Cup, police seized a box at the airport packed with soccer jerseys—and what appeared to be the World Cup trophy itself! But the cops noticed that the Cup's gold paint looked a little shabby, so they chipped off a sample and sent it to the lab.

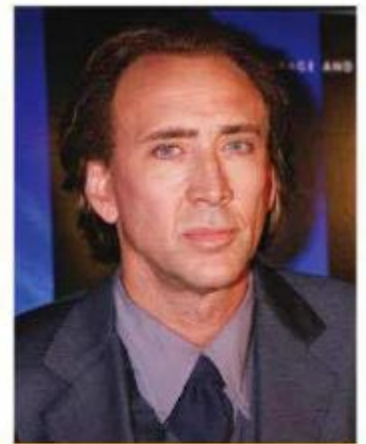
Red card!

The trophy turned out to be 24 pounds of cocaine. The real World Cup is 18-carat solid gold, but weighs only 13.6 pounds. Lab tests confirmed that the coke had to have been mixed with acetone or petrol to make it into a paste that could then be molded into the *fútbol* fake.



NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

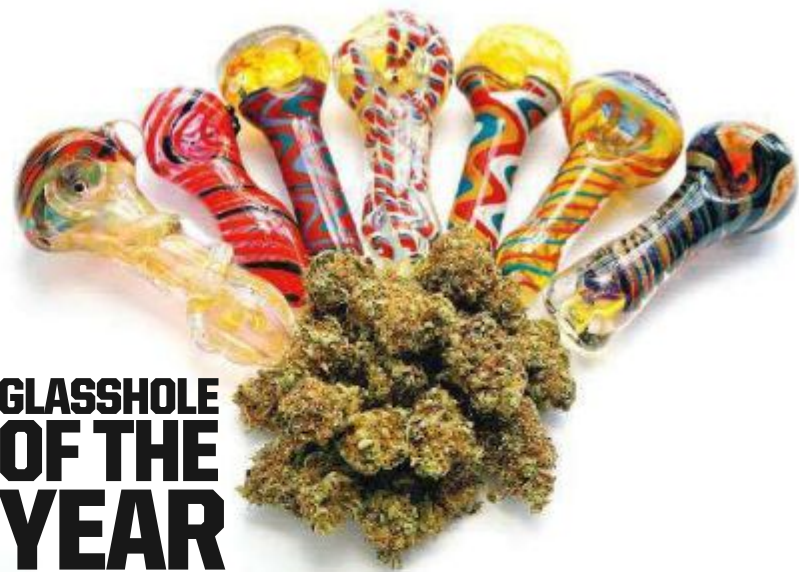
With nearly 20 million residents, New York is the third-biggest state in the nation, just after California and Texas. So it's heartening to hear that a significant majority of New Yorkers support legal medical marijuana—despite the fact that no med-pot bills made it out of the State Legislature this year. According to a poll released by the Cornell University Survey Research Institute, medical marijuana has majority support across every single age group, including 65 percent or higher among everyone except those over 65.



CAGE THIS CAT

On *Late Night with David Letterman*, actor Nicolas Cage told the world that he only eats the meat of animals that engage in "dignified sex." He also confessed that he once shroomed with his cat: "I had a bag of mushrooms in my refrigerator. My cat used to sneak into the refrigerator and eat them. The cat ate them voraciously, so I thought what the heck, I better do it with him. I remember lying on my bed for hours, and Lewis was on the desk across my bed, and we just stared at each other for hours—not moving, just staring at each other. And I had no doubt that he was my brother."

We're speechless.



GLASSHOLE OF THE YEAR

On July 1, Florida's anti-bong law went into effect prohibiting the sale of most paraphernalia in stores. This pretty much put headshops out of business. The grandstanding politician responsible for the measure was Democrat Rep. Darryl Rouson who assumes he can speak for the entire state: "Florida has a conscience and an awareness that marijuana and the smoking and ingesting of it is not healthy for an individual, nor is it healthy for public safety and the order in society."

Uh-huh. That must be why Florida is the #2 state in America for indoor growing. Rouson also said "I've been fighting the pipe industry for the longest time, because it is all a part of the drug trade and the criminal enterprise that we know exists and destroys neighborhoods, families and order in our society." Our response: "Politicians like Rouson are part of a charade and the shameless enterprise that we know exists and destroys truth, justice, and sows disorder in our society."

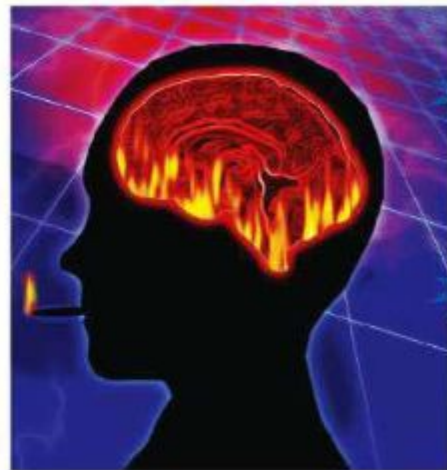
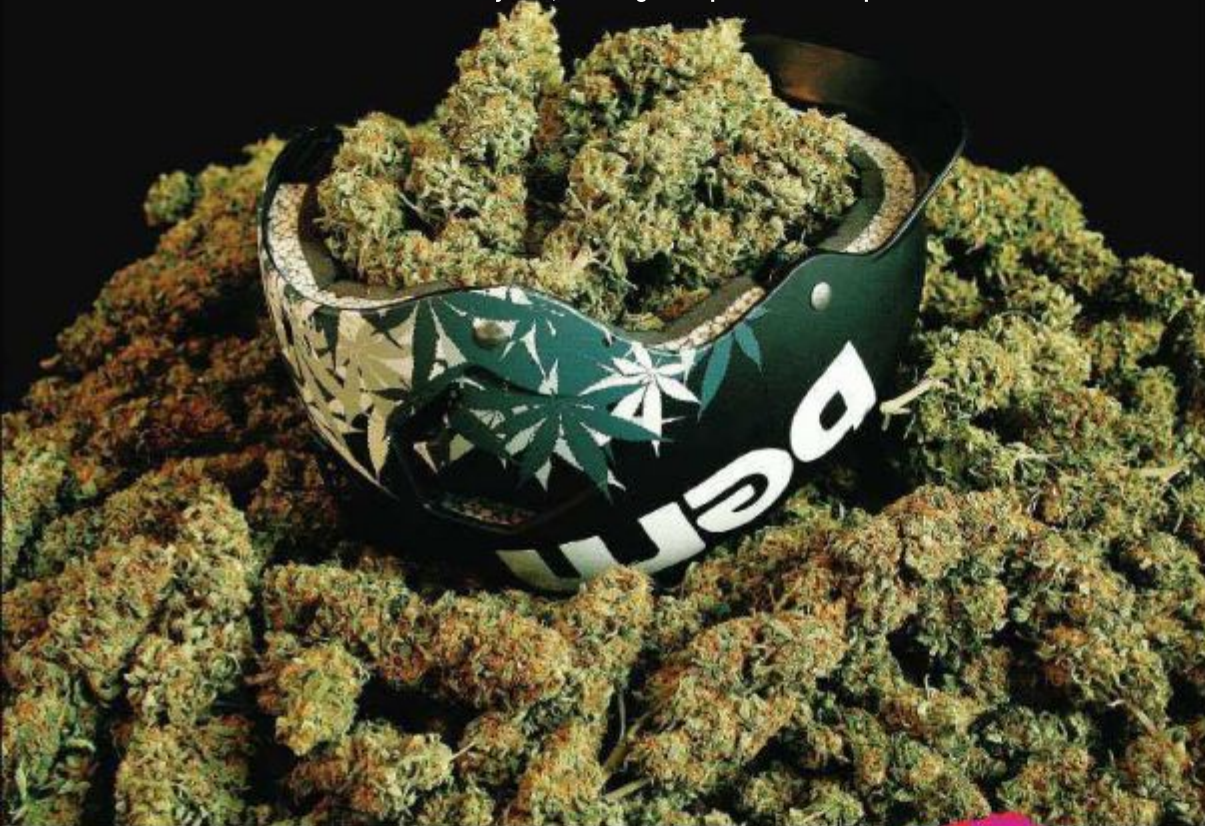
KATY WINN, DAN SKYE, SCOTT NATH

SNOW JOB

Recent changes to Colorado law have made the cultivation of up to six cannabis plants or the possession of two ounces or less of marijuana a misdemeanor only. Thus has a paradise been created for stoner skiers and riders—unless you work for Vail Resorts or one of its many ski areas, including Keystone, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Heavenly and (of course) Vail.

The company has long enjoyed the economic benefits of Colorado's thriving cannabis scene, and management has routinely turned a blind eye to the "smoke shacks" scattered across Vail Resorts' ski areas. (Smoke shacks are illegally built structures used for toking up on the slopes.) However, Vail employees aren't so lucky: A failed piss test can result in insurance cuts, suspension or termination—even if a worker is a legal medical-marijuana patient in the state. However, no such penalties exist for Vail employees who pop pills or get sloppy drunk every night.

Even so, it's hardly an industry secret that vacationing skiers and snowboarders are avid pot smokers. Breckenridge in particular seems to be profiting handsomely by recognizing the preferences of its residents and clientele: It's home to the busiest ski area on the planet, posting skier numbers and profits like no other. Breckenridge also boasts no less than nine medical-marijuana dispensaries—and, last fall, its residents voted to decriminalize marijuana, allowing adult possession of up to two ounces.—**Al Fisher**



MARIJUANA: THE SMART DRUG

Dr. Gary Wenk, Ph.D., is a professor of psychology, neuroscience, molecular virology, immunology and medical genetics at Ohio State University. We're gonna go out on a limb here and assume that Wenk is a really smart dude. In the July issue of *Psychology Today*, he published an article discussing his latest research. His conclusion: Pot stimulates the brain's cannabinoid receptors, which in turn may mitigate the consequences of stroke, chronic pain and neuro-inflammation.

As Wenk wrote: "Research in my laboratory has demonstrated that stimulating the brain's marijuana receptors may offer protection by reducing brain inflammation and by restoring neurogenesis. Thus, later in life, marijuana might actually help your brain, rather than harm it. It takes very little marijuana to produce benefits in the older brain; my colleague in France, Dr. Yannick Marchalant, coined the motto 'a puff is enough' because it appears as though only a single puff each day is necessary to produce significant benefit."

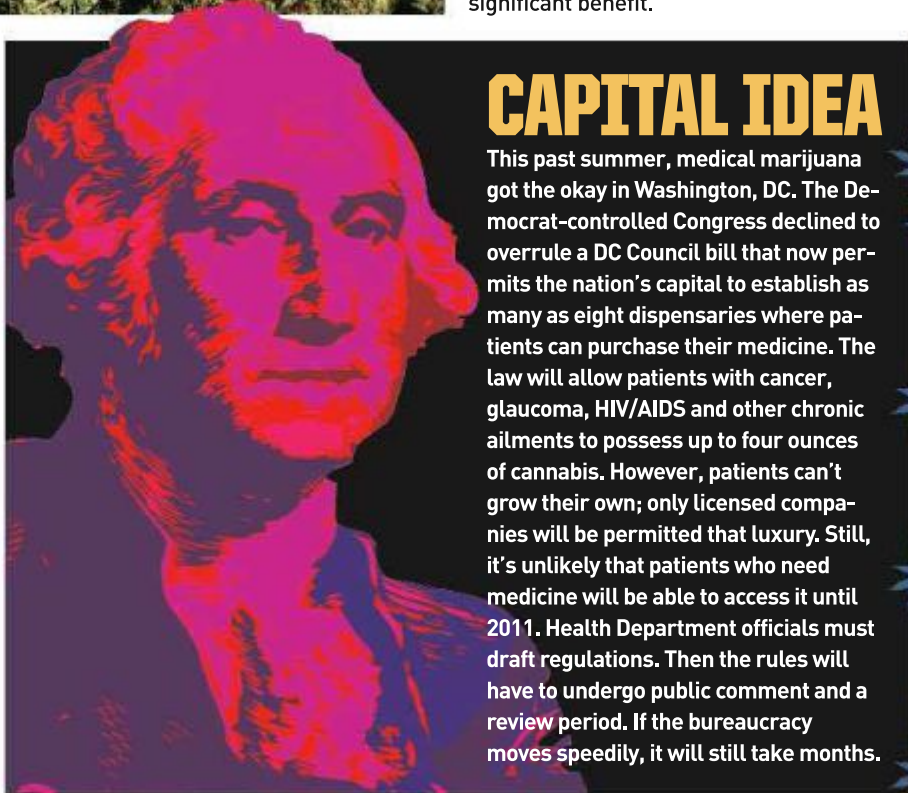
GOD, THC AND THE DEA

Pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed, sloth ... we're not sure which of the Seven Deadly Sins smoking pot falls under, but evidently the DEA is convinced that God hates THC—something that Hawaii's THC Ministry recently discovered.

As its name suggests, the THC Ministry engages in the sacramental use of cannabis. Its website states that membership helps to protect from "arrest, prosecution and/or conviction on marijuana charges—wherever you live." The ministry also states that a sincere practitioner can mount a legitimate religious-use defense.

That premise will now be tested. Last March, DEA and IRS agents raided THC's offices as well as the home of Roger Christie, the ministry's leader. But it wasn't until July that Christie and 13 others were formally charged; they now face federal marijuana manufacturing, possession and distribution charges. Christie sees things differently: "We provide cannabis sacraments, and we're happy to do so. It's a sacred thing to us. We're standing for religious freedom, using cannabis in private, at home or church. And it's a blessed, beautiful thing."

But according to the Feds, religious freedom doesn't include pot-enhanced prayer. Florence Nakakuni, the US Attorney for Hawaii, maintains that the THC Ministry went through over half a pound of marijuana a day and served up to 70 customers daily.

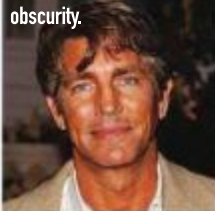


CAPITAL IDEA

This past summer, medical marijuana got the okay in Washington, DC. The Democrat-controlled Congress declined to overrule a DC Council bill that now permits the nation's capital to establish as many as eight dispensaries where patients can purchase their medicine. The law will allow patients with cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS and other chronic ailments to possess up to four ounces of cannabis. However, patients can't grow their own; only licensed companies will be permitted that luxury. Still, it's unlikely that patients who need medicine will be able to access it until 2011. Health Department officials must draft regulations. Then the rules will have to undergo public comment and a review period. If the bureaucracy moves speedily, it will still take months.

THIS MONTH IN **SHOWBUZZ**

Roberts kicks
obscurity.



CELEBRITY (CAREER) REHAB

Eric Roberts, who actually starred in some pretty good movies back in the day (*Star 80*, *The Pope of Greenwich Village*), has signed up as a cast member on VH1's *Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew*, allegedly to be treated for an addiction to medical marijuana. A rep for Roberts, who has abused cocaine and alcohol in the past, released this statement: "It is not for any serious drug/substance, or prescription drug abuse problem. Eric wishes to express his genuine thanks for the concern for his well-being, and appreciates the support of his family, friends and fans."

That would be *ex-fans*. While millions of Americans use marijuana responsibly without suffering addiction and the medical community champions its benefits, a Hollywood has-been smears the plant in exchange for a little TV face-time. Pathetic.

IT HELPS TO BE A ROCK STAR

In late July, the tour bus of Poison frontman Bret Michaels was stopped in Indiana by police because it had no trailer tag lights.

The overzealous cops then decided it was necessary to search the vehicle with drug-sniffing dogs. They found pot and other substances on the bus, but no arrests were made; instead, citations were issued and the bus continued on its way. The evidence has been forwarded to the county prosecutor to figure out what action should be taken.

We don't resent Bret's easy treatment, but we'll bet most tokers in the Hoosier State are nowhere near as lucky.



Bret's
great
escape.

FINALLY FAMOUS FOR SOMETHING

Name one thing Paris Hilton is famous for ... okay, besides that.

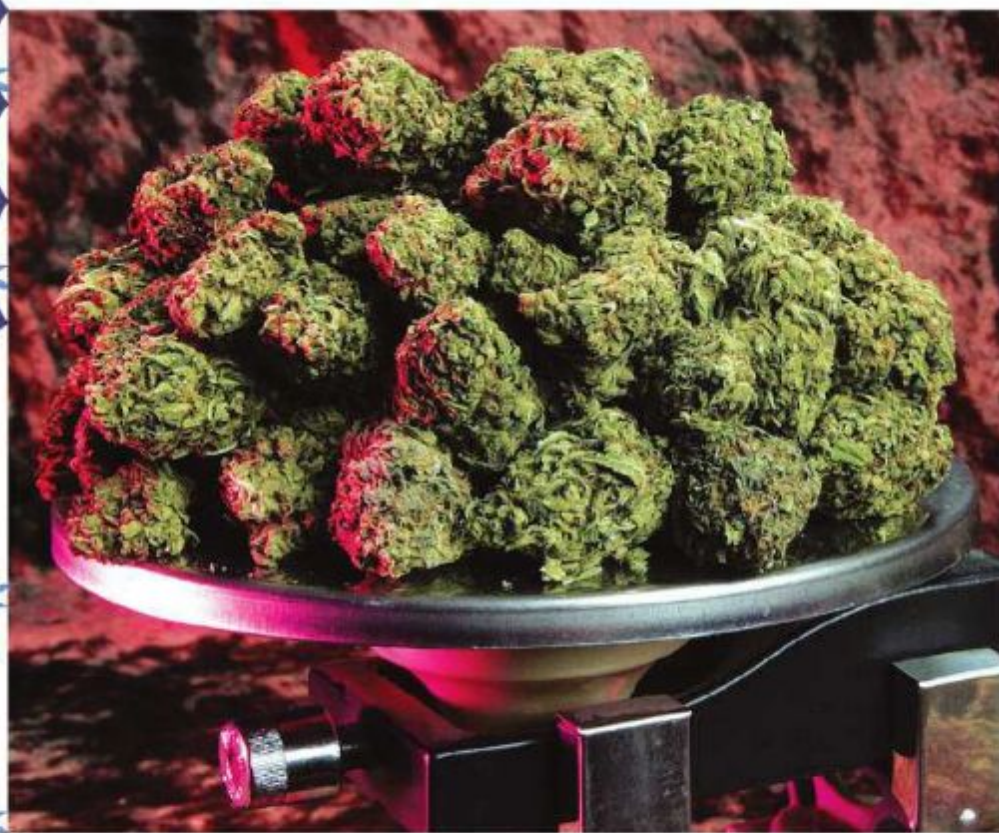
We're pleased to announce that Paris has found her niche, recently showing off an incredible



Paris skates again!

knack for getting popped with pot and walking away! At the World Cup, she was briefly detained for possession, but a friend piped up and said the pot was hers. Then, just 10 days later at the Corsica airport, Paris was detained for 30 minutes after the cops found less than a gram in her purse. Again, she was sprung.

Way to go, Paris! Still, celebs certainly do seem to receive a different brand of justice.



THE \$38 OUNCE

Legal pot may bring about a drastic reduction in marijuana prices.

In yet another sign that full-scale cannabis legalization is approaching, the RAND Corporation, a well-known American think tank, released a six-month study in July that predicted a drastic reduction in pot prices in the event of legalization. The study projects that if marijuana becomes legal in California this November with the passage of Proposition 19, the cost of pot in the competitive retail market could plunge a whopping 80 percent—to as low as \$38 an ounce, or \$1.50 per joint. Regular cannabis users in California may have reason to rejoice; they typically spend \$300 to \$500 a month on pot, even if it's purchased at medical-marijuana dispensaries, where the prices persist in reflecting the black market.

Interestingly, though it's repeatedly described in the mainstream media as "nonpartisan," the Santa Monica, CA-based RAND Corporation was founded in 1946 by the Douglas Aircraft Company (later McDonnell Douglas, a charter member of the military-industrial complex) and has been instrumental in creating US military and national-security policy since the 1950s—policies that most cannabis activists would generally oppose. So its conclusions on topics like marijuana legalization should be viewed with a discerning eye.

Formally titled "Assessing How Marijuana Legalization in California Could Influence Marijuana Consumption and Public Budgets," the RAND report sought to construct a model based on estimates of current consumption, current and future prices and taxes levied, along with non-price issues (such as a reduction in the social stigma of smoking pot). Media reports have generally focused on the study's finding that the annual tax revenue from legalized pot could vary greatly depending on retail prices, with the totals

either much higher or much lower than the \$1.4 billion projected by the State Board of Equalization in 2009. But even if the tax revenues are less than a billion, who cares? California is so desperately in need of money that any funds generated from legalized pot would certainly be welcomed (as though legalization wouldn't be worth it if it produces "only" \$750 million a year).

The RAND report also suggests that legalization will inevitably increase consumption once the fear of being arrested and/or losing one's job lessens, and warns of a new "black market" in pot if the \$50-per-ounce tax proposed in State Senator Tom Ammiano's Assembly Bill 2254 is formally adopted. (Ammiano has delayed action on his bill until after the Prop. 19 vote.) But here again, is this a case of RAND emphasizing the negative? With marijuana so cheap, even at \$100 an ounce (with special taxes and the regular sales tax figured in), how many people would risk breaking the law just to save \$50? While some obviously will, the widespread availability of cheap, legal pot as well as the option of growing your own makes the threat of a new intra-state black market somewhat improbable.

However, two realistic effects of legalization in California are addressed by the study. The first is a potentially dramatic upsurge in Amsterdam-style tourism to the Golden State. The second is the notion that out-of-state residents could buy legal weed in California, then sell it at black-market rates in other states. But even here, this phenomenon could actually hasten the welcome spread of legalization, especially in neighboring West Coast states such as Oregon and Washington, which have generally been more tolerant of marijuana than the rest of the nation.—Mark Miller

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– Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun-Times*

"A funny BLACK COMEDY"

– Jan Stuart, *Screendaily.com*

ORGANIC LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE "LEAVES OF GRASS" OWN GRASS

STARRING:

From Actor/Writer/Director

EDWARD NORTON KERI RUSSELL TIM BLAKE NELSON

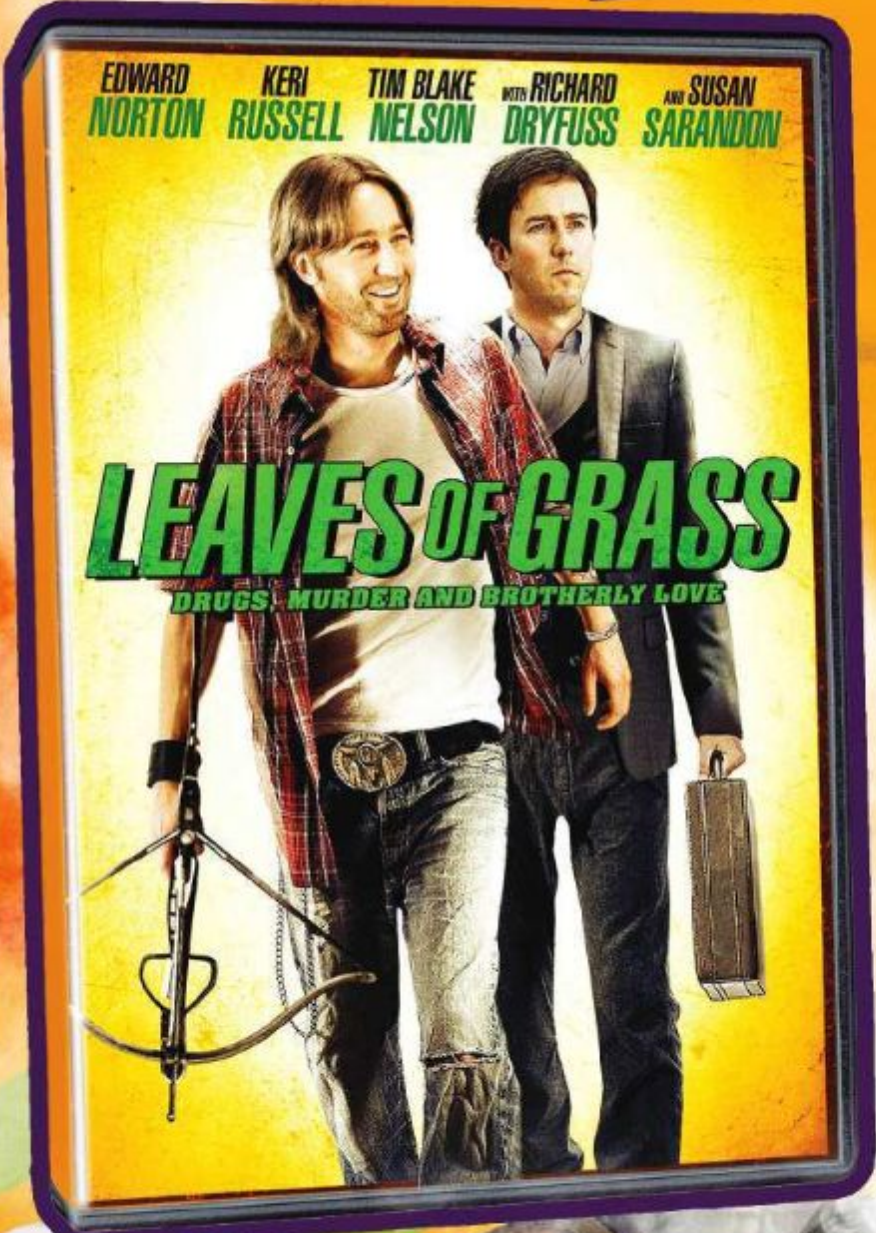
With RICHARD DREYFUSS And SUSAN SARANDON

In *Leaves of Grass*, a new dark comedy, Edward Norton plays identical twins – one an Ivy League professor on the academic fast track, the other a down-home pot grower drifting into dangerous waters. What brings the two together, for better and worse, is a massive, state-of-the-art, nutrient-film-technique hydro setup secreted away in a Quonset hut in the backwaters of rural Oklahoma.

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

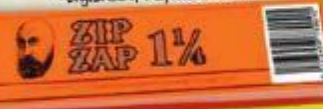
—David Bienenstock, *High Times Magazine*

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GLASS WAREFARE

If you're wandering around Humboldt County from October 1 to 3, check out the fifth annual Female Flameoff in Arcata, CA. Top glassblowers of the fairer sex will fight it out, individually and in teams, to create glass art in three categories—functional sculpture (pipes and such), wearables (rings, necklaces, etc.), plus a “mystery theme”—within a specified time limit. The event is free to the public, and all proceeds from sales of the pieces will benefit a variety of charities. Visit femaleflameoff.com.



At the Female Flameoff the competition is hot, to say the least!

STONED & THE CITY

The mainstream press is constantly rating the best and worst cities in the US, so we decided to add to the noise. Here's a HIGH TIMES look at the good, the bad and the ugly of *herb-an* America. By Mark Miller

THE GOOD

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—A stellar city for stoners, boasting a rich marijuana history, top NorCal strains, progressive government attitudes and lowest-priority police enforcement.

BOULDER, CO—Famously lax toward personal cannabis consumption, and pot quality here is consistently solid. Bonus points for the thin Rocky Mountain air, which amps your buzz.

MADISON, WI—Legendary college party town. High-grade bud and lots of open toking, especially when disc golfing breaks out. Tales abound of arrestees with dozens of plants avoiding jail time.

LOUISVILLE, KY—Grass is Kentucky's No. 1 cash crop. Cops tend to be more lax in the bigger cities. Pot's an important source of revenue in this low-income state. Schwag hasn't been seen in over 10 years.

PORTLAND, ME—Both Portlands are great, but Portland, ME, hasn't gotten the cred it deserves. Excellent weed here, plus more casual law enforcement than many other cities on the uptight East Coast.

ANN ARBOR, MI—Another great Midwestern college town and the site of the annual springtime Hash Bash. Recreational possession incurs a small fine here. A welcome oasis in the otherwise schwaggy and herb-unfriendly Wolverine State.

BOSTON, MA—Even though the decrim laws are great (just \$100 for an ounce, possible probation for more), Beantown barely makes the cut in this category. Why? The prices are outrageous! How can bud be so much cheaper in nearby Canada?

HONORABLE MENTION: HAWAII COUNTY, HI—As of 2008, anyone over 21 can privately cultivate and possess up to 24 plants or 24 ounces. And it's actually illegal here for the county government to receive marijuana-eradication funds!

THE BAD

CHICAGO, IL—The Windy City may be a major hub for illegal drugs, but there are way too many dry spells, and the cops are still intolerant toward tokers.

NEW YORK CITY, NY—No surprise: The prices here are the highest in America. A quarter of kind bud costs a solid \$150; eighths are as high as \$90! Plus, expect a legal hassle for public smoking.

PHILADELPHIA, PA—The DA's office has decided to stop incarcerating those busted with 30 grams or less. But the cops say they'll keep arresting pot smokers as usual. Weed still too pricey at \$65 an eighth.

WASHINGTON, DC—Finding a connection in DC is like cracking a CIA code: Stoners are ultra-secretive about revealing their source due to jeopardizing future govern-

ment-related careers. Police are generally pretty tolerant, but prices are steep.

LOS ANGELES, CA—Nearly everyone tokes, but LA still needs a makeover in terms of its med-pot policies and prices to match the Bay Area. Still, SoCal bud rocks!

THE UGLY

LITTLE ROCK, AR—Maybe *the* single worst city for pot—mostly low-grade Mexi. *Yuck*. (Now we know why Clinton didn't inhale.) Any possession could mean the slammer.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK—Too much schwag in the Sooner State, and you'll lose your driver's license after a pot bust ... even if you're on foot!

ST. LOUIS, MO—Stone Age drug laws: a possible year in jail for possession? (Though simple possession usually gets you drug court.) Also, frequent dry-spell blues.

DALLAS, TX—A scarcity of good bud and an aggressive, militaristic police force make regular pot smoking a challenge.

LAS VEGAS, NV—Good bud is available, but possession of over an ounce is dangerous: a felony charge with fines and possible jail. Under an ounce gets harsh treatment, too—especially for multiple arrests.

PHOENIX, AZ—Too much Mexi bud and police enforcement. Simple possession can result in jail or drug class.

INDIANAPOLIS—General intolerance and shitty weed. More than 30 grams may get you six months and a \$10,000 fine. Hoosiers depend on the college towns for good bud.



VICTORY FOR VETS

In “The Thin Green Line” (June '10 HT), we detailed how veterans were being kicked out of pain-management programs by the Veterans Administration for using medical marijuana, and how the group Veterans for Medical Marijuana Access was lobbying to change this policy. On July 24, the VA released a new directive stating that veterans will now be allowed to use medical marijuana in states where it is legal without fear of being cut off from their other pain medications. While VA doctors are still prohibited from recommending medical marijuana as a treatment, this is undeniably a huge milestone: the first time a federal agency has recognized the medicinal value of cannabis.

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The merchandise of C420online got a close inspection.



Haight Solid State LEDs lit up the expo.



The super-size jars of CannaFresh were a super-size hit.



Attendees could spin a roulette wheel for pot and prizes.



Glass smokeware lovers flocked to Phat Tubz.

AN INDUSTRY ON THE RISE

Over two days in San Francisco, the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup Expo showcased the burgeoning cannabis industry. By Danny Danko

On June 18 and 19, the City by the Bay hosted the inaugural HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup Expo. There was a bit of *Field of Dreams* to the scene: *If you build it, they will come!*

And guess what? They did!

Thousands walked among the booths stocked with live pot plants and clones, dispensary displays of buds and concentrates, as well as every manner of product for consuming cannabis in every possible form.

In the Prop. 215 area, where the cannabis community medicated throughout the weekend, cannabis fans networked under the sunny San Francisco skies. Tinctures, vaporizers and even a couple of impromptu outdoor "hash bars" had the crowds buzzing, while celebrity chef Chris Bliss kept tokers fueled with his exquisite cuisine.

The state-of-the-art growing and harvesting equipment on display included growboxes from BC Northern Lights, stackable Spinners from Hydroplex, LED lighting from Haight Solid State,

Stealth Grow LED, and Hydro-Gro LLC, plus a variety of heavy-duty trimmers from Trimpro. Post-harvest Boldt Bags were snapped up by buyers eager to convert their leftover trimmings into hash.

California's most respected medical-marijuana providers, Harborside Health Center of Oakland and the Berkeley Patients Group, showed off their pre-screened and tested cannabis varieties. The two organizations have been a force for enlightenment on their respective local scenes, improving their communities through outreach and engagement.

The locals from Medithrive ran a "Name That Strain" game, giving away free eighths every hour, while the C420 dispensary offered patients a chance to spin the roulette wheel to win clones, brownies and other fine California medicine.

Other area stalwarts like the Vapor Room Cooperative, NorCal Herbal Relief Center and Green Door wowed the hometown crowd with high-quality merchandise, while the Angel's Care dispensary showcased its delicious coconut-cannabis drink.

Greenway Compassionate Relief from Santa Cruz promoted clones, tinctures and edibles, while Steep Hill Labs from Oakland used the expo as a platform to emphasize the benefits of testing for THC, CBD and CBN levels, as well as any pesticide residue or powdery mildew present on medical marijuana.

To enter the outdoor Prop. 215 area, proper paperwork was required, and attendees had to be genuine med-pot patients. Not to worry, though—doctors from Be Legally Green were on hand to assess the status of potential patients and provide temporary medical recommendations to those who qualified.

Hundreds took advantage of this teeming yet convivial toking territory, where every booth provided smoking options and giant quarter-pound joints magically appeared at 4:20 p.m. Attendees managed to leave far more stoned than when they came, especially after trying the Essential VAAAPP from Essential Herbal Technologies, who have created a water-pipe attachment called the Vape20 that elevates the bubble-hash or budder experience



Stealth LEDs brought the best and the brightest.



Green Door San Francisco's booth sparkled in the sun.



The Harborside open hash bar was a magnet for tokers.



Judges played "Name That Strain" at Meditrive.



The extraordinary grow-boxes of BC Northern Lights got rave reviews.



Greenway took top honors for edibles.



Swerve (right) of Cali Connection with his cultivation crew.



Zong's Two-kink Jack Herer bong took top honors.

BEST PRODUCT

1. A tie between Essential Herbal Technologies' new Eclipse Vape_{2.0} and Stealth Grow's LEDs
2. Grassroots for the "HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup" hat
3. A tie between Canna Fresh Jars and Boldt Bags

BEST GLASS

1. Zong's two-kink Jack Herer bong
2. Glass Sliders
3. "Sea Life" by Voorhees and Christina Cody

BEST EXPO BOOTH

1. The Humboldt Patients Resource Center
2. A tie between Cmaz Glass and the Green Door
3. Stealth Grow LEDs



We couldn't agree more!

to cosmic levels. Also delightful was the Herb Iron, a ceramic heating element that warms up hash to the perfect temperature for clean consumption. Super-clean hits were also produced by the Zephyr Iron Vaporizer, a digital vape featuring a similar heating-element technology, while the Labworx Skillet not only heats up hash, but swivels as well—just one more innovative way to consume hashish or other concentrated cannabis products.

Incredibowl Industries showcased their popular line of shotgun-style pipes that boast an excellent delivery system. The crowds also loved the new, mini Incredibowls from these two-time HT Cannabis Cup Product Award winners. The stealthy Allin1E one-hitters were a big hit as well; they have everything you need to take on the run, supplying a lighter, poker and grinder all in one tiny storage case. And, of course, attendees flocked to the classic Glass Slider, which allows tokers to eliminate ash as the pot burns, so every hit stays as fresh as the first.

The outdoor area also featured top cultivation stars like Subcool and MzJill of TGA/Subcool Seeds, who offered this reporter samples of their Third Dimension, Vortex and Chernobyl strains, as well a taste of their glycerin-based purple tincture made from violet-colored nugs.

Swerve, who oversees the Cali Connection seed company, was proud to render many a judge stoned to the bone. His specialty comprises the Kushy strains like Tahoe, Larry and SFV, all fresh versions of the Connection's famous Kush.

BC Bud Depot displayed mouthwatering shots of their classic Purps as well as the Black, a new, darker strain from the Vancouver area. Sacred Plant Medicine of Washington State was on hand with unique, potent pot from the Pacific Northwest as well as an all-day DJ booth. Stony Girl Gardens out of Oregon proudly posed with their 35-day-flowering, organic Cripit strain.

Best of all, many of the dispensaries were able to sell rooted clones and mother plants

openly to their prospective growers.

But if you've got buds, you gotta store 'em! At the forefront of the storage pack is Canna Fresh, provider of high-quality jars for patients and larger, customized glass containers for medical-marijuana dispensaries, all designed to keep their products at maximum freshness.

For cannabis sticklers, stackable Kindstacks are an excellent way to separate and store three or more strains, providing both purity and portability. Likewise, the 420 jars and scopes from 420 Science allow cannabis aficionados to store and inspect their stash anywhere. Along with Dime Bags' bong-carrying backpack, the "Indica Hemp" gear from Sativa Bags, and the "I Heart Stoner Girls" T-shirts from Not for Pot, stoner style meant plenty of stoner cash sales!

All expo attendees were also judges and voted on the best products, booths and glassware they encountered over the course of this cannabis weekend. Judgement Day has never been sweeter. ✨

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: **\$357** (last month: \$334; YTD: \$358)

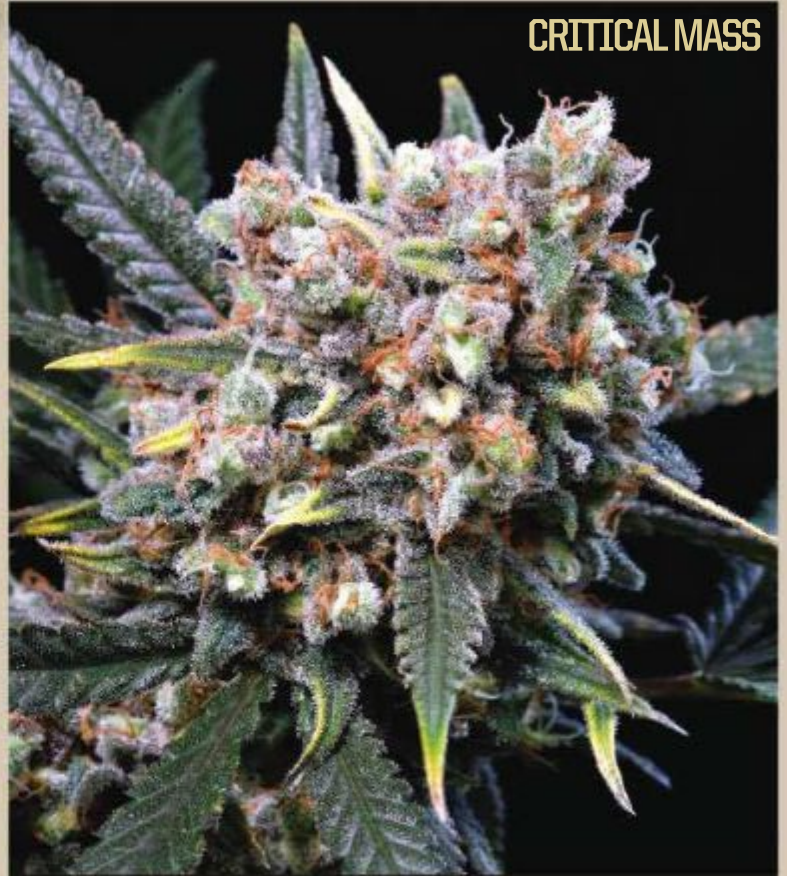
CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$418** (\$413, \$425)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$262** (\$265, \$276)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$87** (\$84, \$95)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
CALIFORNIA	Hanford Los Angeles Oroville	Blueberry	\$200
		Sour Diesel	\$325
		Purple Wreck	\$350
		Chemdog	\$400
		Grape Ape	\$225
	Porterville San Jose	Chocolope	\$350
		Grapefruit Haze	\$350
		Purple Kush	\$250
	Tulare		
	COLORADO	Craig Denver	Pure Power Plant
UK Cheese			\$300
FLORIDA	Miami	God Bud	\$350
GEORGIA	Alpharetta Atlanta	Bubba Kush	\$400
		Sour Diesel	\$475
		OG Kush	\$475
		Sweet Island Skunk	\$450
KENTUCKY	Ashland	Pure Power Plant	\$600
		Crimea Blue	\$550
LOUISIANA	Baton Rouge	Blueberry Kush	\$420
		Granddaddy Purple	\$550
MARYLAND	Baltimore	Jack Herer	\$400
		Diesel	\$400
		White Widow	\$400
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	MK-Ultra	\$450
		AK-47	\$500
		Sweet Tooth	\$400
		Blue Dream	\$420
MICHIGAN	Detroit	Sour Diesel	\$500
MONTANA	Anaconda Helena	Diesel	\$250
		Purple Kush	\$350
		Headband	\$250
		Strawberry Cough	\$250
		White Widow	\$280
KalisPELL			
NEBRASKA	Lincoln	Lemon Kush	\$300
		Super Lemon Haze	\$300
NEVADA	Gardnerville	Sour Dragon	\$380
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Concord	Purple Urkel	\$310
NEW YORK	Rochester	Northern Lights	\$320
PENNSYLVANIA	Pittsburgh	Trainwreck	\$350
		Strawberry Kush	\$390
		G-13	\$390
TENNESSEE	Chattanooga Jackson	Raspberry Diesel	\$400
		Jack Herer	\$400
		Granddaddy Purps	\$500
		Blue Dream	\$550
TEXAS	Austin Dallas Houston	White Widow	\$350
		OG Kush	\$400
		Trainwreck	\$375
VERMONT	Rutland	Master Kush	\$400
VIRGINIA	Rockingham County	Mr. Nice Guy	\$380
WASHINGTON	Yelm	Bubba Kush	\$280
INTERNATIONAL (prices listed in Canadian dollars):			
CANADA	Charlottetown Grande Prairie Toronto	Jack Herer	C\$200
		Blackberry Kush	C\$200
		Sensi Star	C\$250

CRITICAL MASS



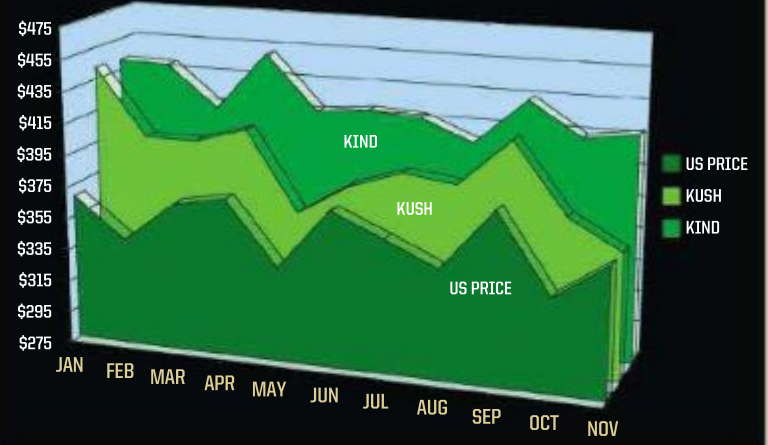
MARKET ANALYSIS

To no one's surprise, Kush was the most submitted strain in November, with Diesel finishing a close second. Oddly, the top five submitted strains are the exact same strains—in the exact same order—for the third consecutive month. Once again, Kush's average price dropped from its previous month's average (-\$18); Kush's average price is now down \$62 from September. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$355), Diesel (\$392), Purps (\$389), Haze (\$325) and Trainwreck (\$358).

Index Watch: All indices rose slightly from October with the exception of Mids (-\$3); the US Price Index experienced the month's biggest increase (+\$23).

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 2010



Purple Wreck - \$350

Oroville, CALIFORNIA

"Fruity-smelling goodness. Very dense, large nugs blanketed with crystals. Grown indoors."

Sweet Island Skunk - \$450

Atlanta, GEORGIA

"Grown locally, perfect cure, perfect representation of this strain."

Bubba Kush - \$400

Alpharetta, GEORGIA

"Extravagant—this sour-piney Kush is a mind-bender that just makes your mouth water uncontrollably. The physical appearance is easily described: super-tight nugs with mountains of crystals. Sit back and enjoy!"

Crimea Blue - \$550

Ashland, KENTUCKY

"Organic hydro grown with Botanicare nutes. Powerful *indica* punch that's great for pain relief; also very good for neurological problems. Large buds smell and taste like blueberries and spicy hash. No paranoia as with some strains this potent—impossible to have a negative thought!"

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CAGE FRIE

Chris Palko, a.k.a. Cage, Survives His Walk on the Wild Side. By Chris Parker

Cage's stage act is influenced by the punk bands he listened to growing up.

Chris Palko's a statistical anomaly, a living, breathing exception to the rule. His life makes 50 Cent seem like a candy striper. Most people with his backstory are ticketed for a lifetime of institutional meals before their body is finally discovered stinking up some squalid tenement or condemned building. Yet, somehow, Palko survived a youth that was more like a cautionary after-school special from hell. Now in his thirties, he's managed to outrun his demons and establish himself as one of the most intriguing, adventurous figures in underground rap.

He's taken a circuitous route, but Palko—who goes by the moniker Cage onstage—has slowly transformed his experiences into something positive. He's gone from a sometime rapper and full-time addict squandering his talent, to a gruesomely imaginative hardcore New York hip-hop legend spewing dark tales to “angry young womanizers in ball caps,” to an artist who still traffics in harrowing tales but—inspired by his friend and collaborator's untimely death—squeezes the silver lining out of his overcast backdrops. And someday, perhaps soon, his story will be made into a film starring his buddy Shia LeBeouf.

“I've done nothing but piss away every opportunity ever given to me. These are all things you can't get back, but you can use them to make you stronger and learn from them,” Palko says from his New York City apartment. “You have to exploit these things people have taken from you—especially the things you have taken from yourself.”

Palko was born in Germany to an American serviceman by the name of

Bill Murray, but his experience was nothing like *Stripes*. Murray was dishonorably discharged for selling and abusing heroin; he'd enlist his son to tie him off while he shot up. Palko was eight when he last saw his father, who at that point was involved in an armed standoff with state troopers after threatening his family with a shotgun. Palko's mom remarried, but his new stepfather beat him, which encouraged him to spend most of his childhood on the streets, running wild, doing and selling drugs, getting into fights and trouble with the law.

“When I was 16 years old, I was selling crack, and I was a buck-fifty in people's faces with box-cutters,” Palko recalls matter-of-factly.

When he was kicked out of school, his parents sent him overseas to live with an uncle who served on a military base in Germany. Palko's uncle beat him as well and sent him back to the US after a year. When further run-ins with the law threatened real jail time, his mother convinced a judge that Palko was mentally unstable, and a two-week evaluation at Stony Lodge Psychiatric Hospital turned into an 18-month stay.

As Palko sings on “Dr. Strong,” one of the songs about the experience from his album *Depart From Me*: “You dropped me off and left me here and started your vacation / I was just in your house going to school looking for validation / Pissed you off, now I'm in the hospital eating medication ... / The drugs they're making me take are making me want to kill myself / And if I try and refuse meds then they force it in me.”

While institutionalized, Palko became a test subject for the then-new and



gle "Agent Orange," whose mix of *Clockwork Orange* references, gangsta violence and gore worthy of Michael Myers made it a minor underground sensation. He released a couple more singles, but his career didn't gain momentum until he joined Mr. Eon and DJ Mighty Mi to form Smut Peddlers. Their 2001 release, *Porn Again*, hit the *Billboard* charts, and the single "That Smut" made it into the rap chart's Top 10. Palko would release his debut solo album, *Movies*



Off hard drugs, Cage still enjoys a good toke.

'My record was the first one on HIGH TIMES,' Palko reminisces fondly. 'It was cool—I went to the Cannabis Cup and got really stoned.'

untested drug Prozac, which aggravated his bipolar disorder and made him suicidal. (He attempted to hang himself with his shoelaces, then tried to overdose on lithium.) He was subsequently placed on suicide watch and restrained more than 20 times for periods as long as 13 hours in a strait-jacket or 10-point bed restraints. Isolated and embattled, he embraced the only freedom he had: retreating into his own head, cultivating his imagination and the twisting, twisted lyrical style that would become his signature.

When he was finally released in '93 at age 18, he turned his attention to hip-hop, made a demo, and secured a manager who introduced him to 3rd Bass's Pete Nice, who featured Palko on a track off his solo debut, *Dust to Dust*, and signed him to his Columbia Records imprint, Hoppoh. But Palko was too fucked up on drugs to take advantage and never released anything. "I was so heavily into pills, I was a walking rattlesnake," he says now. "Anywhere I was walking, you'd hear 'chk-chk-chk.'"

His proper debut wouldn't come for another three years—when, in 1997, he released the sin-

for the *Blind*, the next year on Eastern Conference Records, which was distributed by HIGH TIMES Records. ("My record was the first one on HIGH TIMES," Palko reminisces fondly. "It was cool—I went to the Cannabis Cup and got really stoned.")

With 2005's follow-up, *Hell's Winter*, Palko changed things up. Gone were the misogynistic and gratuitously violent imagery. He was still angry and graphic, but it was more about emotional torture than maniacal, insensate boasting.

"I used to write about sexual exploits, drug fantasies, weapons, and just fucking anyone over and being very proud of it. It was like a character, and it just felt like it was crazy for the sake of being crazy," he says. "You want to poke it with a different stick and hope you bleed differently each time. It's always going to bleed fucked-up; the desire to be overly descriptive and graphic is always going to be there."

He also finally got off hard drugs. (To this day, he remains a big fan of pot.) "I stopped doing drugs because drugs were done with me," Palko says. "It was like: 'Hello, drugs!' 'What, dude? We

don't have anything for you. What do you want? You sucked all the fun out of us.'"

More changes were in store for last year's *Depart From Me*. Palko and his sidekick, Camu Tao, had already transformed their live show: Bored with the typical hip-hop style of stalking the stage and calling out to the crowd, they'd begun to mimic the punk artists that Palko loved growing up, like Henry Rollins and Iggy Pop, seeking to make the show more visceral. For the album, he wanted to bring that same energy by limiting the use of samples and employing more live instrumentation. But then tragedy struck when Camu Tao was diagnosed with cancer.

"When he got sick, it took me out of the game, because nothing else mattered to me," Palko reflects. "I couldn't make these songs and use my collaborator. I couldn't bring in these songs and go, 'I know you're dying—listen to my songs about wanting to die.' I didn't know what to do, so I started making songs that were a little happier.

"After he passed away, my entire world fell apart. I'd never been so wounded in my life. I'd been through so much and felt like, as a little kid, I could take anything—and then the grown man is just broken."

Compounding matters, he split up with his longtime girlfriend and ended up sleeping on an air mattress at the house of his friend, former Hatebreed guitarist Sean Martin. Martin lent him a hand creatively as well, helping Palko create an album meant "to define me and take me to the next level." *Depart From Me* is loaded with hooks, live instruments and a slightly more upbeat attitude, producing music that's more rock than hip-hop, yet not quite either.

His friendship with actor Shia LeBeouf bloomed during this time and helped Palko through his pain. LeBeouf directed the video for *Depart From Me*'s "I Never Knew You," which was paid for out of their own pockets after Palko's label, Def Jux, decided to stop releasing music. For the last year, he and LeBeouf have been auditioning screenwriters for a movie based on Palko's life and may have finally settled on a script. Shooting will depend on getting backers and on LeBeouf's schedule, but Lionsgate Studios is already interested.

Lately, Palko's taken some meetings with major and indie labels, but he's in no hurry to sign. And though he's without a label, Palko continues to record. He's made material with Martin and with UK producer Synhony. He's also talked with Kanye West protégé Kid Cudi about doing some tracks. He has no idea what will become of the music, but he can't stop writing. And it's not just music: He's begun a book on his experience at Stony Lodge and another on his exploits as an angel-dust addict. He's had a crazy life, and sometimes the only way to keep his sanity is to keep working.

"I'm just all over the place. I take it all with a grain of shit and try to keep going despite the fraudulence I'm surrounded by," he says. "It's a lot easier to come across as original when 99 percent of my peers are fighting to see who can do the best writing the same three songs." *

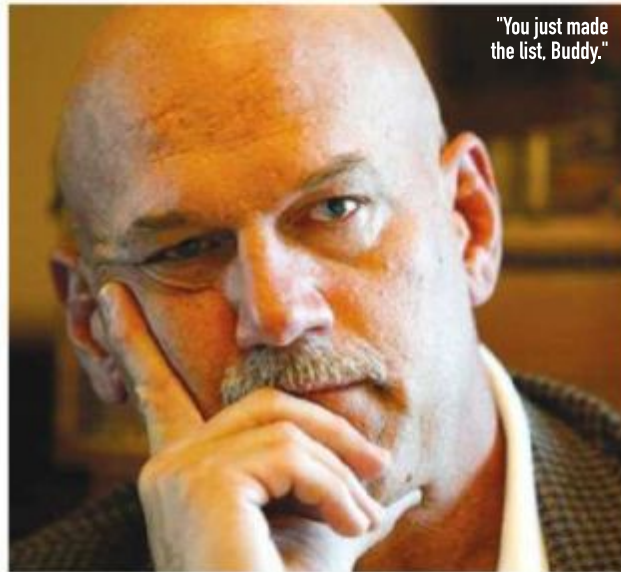
MEET JESSE VENTURA

By Steven Hager

Jesse Ventura has led one of the more colorful lives in American political history. A former Navy Seal who became a professional wrestler and then an actor, Ventura stunned America when he was elected governor of Minnesota in 1998 as an independent candidate. During his time as governor, Ventura was pro-hemp and pro-medical marijuana. Last year, he created *Conspiracy Theory with Jesse Ventura*, the first successful cable-TV show on political conspiracies. He also co-authored the book *American Conspiracies* with longtime HIGH TIMES writer Dick Russell, whose *The Man Who Knew Too Much* remains the best single volume ever written on the JFK assassination.

How did you win that election?

The Democrats made a big mistake and said they would not debate unless I was included. I go on a simple premise with Democrats and Republicans: If I can debate them, I can beat them ... because they have so much baggage, and I have no baggage. And the way to have no baggage is to admit to everything beforehand. Sure, I've smoked pot—I grew up in the '60s. If you didn't smoke pot in the '60s, you either didn't grow up then or you're a damned liar.



What would you like to say to New Yorkers about 9/11?

We need a new investigation with subpoena power that won't be fraudulently led by the government. How can you truly do an investigation of yourself? Christie Todd Whitman was head of the EPA. The initial report from the EPA was that you still had great danger down there with all the toxins in the air. Yet it went to the White House, and the White House had her change

I don't know. I call them lemmings ... march them right off the cliff. I don't vote for Democrats or Republicans—that's the first thing we need to do, is to stop voting for those two political parties. Because we were warned by John Adams and George Washington and Thomas Jefferson that the downfall of the United States would occur from within, and

the report: "Everybody go back to work!" How many people who worked there have now died from inhaling what was there?

Why aren't Americans angry about the stolen elections?

'Sure, I've smoked pot—I grew up in the '60s. If you didn't smoke pot in the '60s, you either didn't grow up then or you're a damned liar.'

they said it would occur when political parties took over the government. Well, that's happened.

What do you think of the Tea Party movement?

I think the Tea Party is a bit of a fraud, because they're supposed to be defending the Constitution—where were they during the Bush administration when they got rid of habeas corpus? I found it kind of ironic that it all happened only when Barack Obama got in. All of a sudden, there's this Tea Party that turns up: "They're turning us all into socialists!"



Somebody's operation, no doubt.

They are not grassroots ... this is way, way beyond any grassroots movement. ✨

FOOL'S GOLD SHINES TRUE

This Los Angeles musical collective rocks with African music, Israeli melodies, and cannabis from around the world. By Danny Danko



The first thing the members of Fool's Gold want you to know is that their influences are far more than just Congolese, Ethiopian and Malian. "I don't consider us strictly 'world music,'" says founding member and vocalist/bassist Luke Top. "We're just being honest with ourselves: We're into hip-hop, Motown, pop, new wave—all kinds of music that colors our aural landscape and

provides some form of escape.

"We're hoping to achieve that elusive, hypnotic trance where you lose yourself onstage," Top continues, though he admits that "it doesn't always happen. The sense of time changes and you enter *musical* time, where the spectrum of moods is shared."

Live, Fool's Gold saturates their audience with mesmerizing sounds played on a variety of handmade instruments. Their percussion includes goat-toe rattles, shell gourds and many other unique drums, and the vocalists chant their verses and choruses as though possessed by a contagious musical spirit. Entranced crowds up front typically tend to enhance their aural and dancing experience with a spliff or two.

Keyboard player Amir Kenan can relate: "We love to smell it wafting up from the crowd! I grew up going to reggae concerts with my dad, so the memories wash over me. It's how I know the audience is into our stuff—like a salute. Very different from an alcohol-crowd vibe."

Percussionist Salvador Placencia agrees. "I use marijuana as a type of key to unlock certain spaces," he says.

On the perks of traveling and performing, drummer Orpheo McCord tells me: "Vancouver is very herb-friendly, but Northern Cali is always the best. In Vancouver, our sound guy hooked us up within minutes of arrival. We love when fans and friends share the love and the buds!" ✨

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Willie and Wynton

Walter Blanding, Wynton Marsalis, Willie Nelson, Norah Jones, (Carlos Henriquez on bass), Mickey Raphael perform live at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Over the past few years, Willie Nelson has been expanding his already diverse musical palette to include jazz—and he took legendary trumpeter Wynton Marsalis along for the ride.

By Mary Ought Six

Not enough people know that the world's most venerated stoner, country-music star Willie Nelson, has made some epic excursions into the upper echelons of jazz in recent years. In an inspired and instantly memorable collaboration, Willie teamed up with jazz-trumpet heavyweight champion Wynton Marsalis. Not since the legendary Louis Armstrong and Jimmie Rodgers, "the Father of Country Music," hit the recording studios together back in 1930 has there been such an historic match-up between jazz horn and country warble.

Willie took time from his current tour with *Asleep at the Wheel* to tell *HIGH TIMES* more about these amazing sessions, which have been captured on CD and two DVDs.

"I heard that music forever, so it wasn't a big stretch for me to say, 'Hey, Wynton, let's jam,'" he explained. After all, Nelson's musical heritage is a rich tapestry: "I grew up in the cotton fields in Texas, where I heard the Mexicans singing all kinds of great Mexican songs and I heard the blacks singing all kinds of great black songs—blues, gospel. And there were also a lot of Czechoslovakians down in that area, many of them farmers, so I learned a lot of polkas, waltzes—all that great dance music that the Bohemians play."

And though he's always been "Country Willie," Nelson's life has been bathed in jazz from its roots to its flowers. "I like to think that we're all kind of

half-assed jazz musicians," he said with a chuckle. "My sister Bobby listened to all the great musicians, and I've been a Django Reinhardt fan for many years—so it's kind of hard not to have that jazz flair in nearly everything we do." As for the seemingly unusual pairing of the down-home, unpretentious Nelson with the urbane, sartorially elegant Marsalis, Willie laughed: "The press liked it a lot, because they could say, 'Well, here's this old country-boy farmer out there playing with this jazz musician from New York.' So it looks good in print, but it was a lot of fun and really easy to do."

And both the fun and the ease are abundantly clear on these highly entertaining DVDs. The first, *Willie Nelson & Wynton Marsalis: Live from New York City*, is a lovingly produced near-documentary of the two days of rehearsals and performances at the posh venue Jazz at Lincoln Center by this group of astounding musicians. Nelson and Marsalis have a marvelous time interacting, playing and singing together, and their shared love is more heartwarming than a batch of fresh-baked Diesel brownies. At one point during the filming, Marsalis shakes his head and puts it plain about Nelson: "He's real, man, and that's rare. You've gotta get as close to that as you can nowadays. It's important for your own mental being."

Nicely put—and if your own mental being needs to enjoy the pure musical extraction from this first major summit, *Willie Nelson and Wynton Marsalis: Two Men with the Blues* is available on CD from Blue Note Records. Though the pricey NYC jazz club isn't exactly known as a haven for stoners, *HIGH TIMES* asked Nelson if marijuana played any sort of role in these collaborations. "Well," he answered with a playful drawl, "I did send them all a vaporizer after we were done."

Did he get a response?

"Nobody sent one back."

Hey, clearly they still wanted to hang out! The second DVD, released in October of last year, is pure musical bliss. Telling a linear tale from stage entrance to stage exit, *Willie Nelson & Wynton Marsalis Play the Music of Ray Charles* delivers just that: From foot-tapping classics like "Hit the Road Jack" and "Hallelujah I Love Her So" to a sweet rendition of "Unchain My Heart," Willie and Wynton (with a special guest appearance by Norah Jones) bring all the life and light of Ray Charles's superb music to the floor. And while the first DVD has the benefit of fascinating behind-the-scenes footage, the second has the added luxury of the charisma between Nelson and Jones. As Nelson observes: "Norah and I are old friends—she even has a band called the Little Willies."

Finally, the performances here are mind-blowingly great, with saxophone, piano, harmonica, bass and drums adding layers of musical nirvana to enhance any state of mind. As Nelson pointed out during our interview: "The music itself is a high. The audience gets a high from the music, the entertainer gets a high from the music and the audience So, with or without drugs, music gets you *very* high."

You can catch more of Nelson and hear his own favorite picks at *Willie's Place* on both XM and Sirius satellite radio (Nelson dubs satellite radio a "godsend" for travelers), but the musical collaboration captured on these discs will make them timeless classics: a teaming of legends who share the utmost respect and admiration for each other—and have one hell of a good time getting down. These three discs are something super-special for your shelves, to light up choice nights and pass around to your most musically diverse buds. ✨

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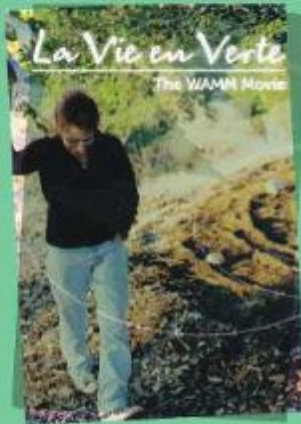
Directed by Charlie Hall and Bevin Bell-Hall



At the world premiere of *La Vie en Verte* at the Santa Cruz Film Festival, locals packed the theater to support the well-respected medical-marijuana collective known as WAMM (Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana), including dozens of the group's members. Filmed over four years by husband-and-wife team Charlie Hall and Bevin Bell-Hall, the documentary crafts a sensitive portrait of the medical-marijuana patients and activists who embody the collective spirit of WAMM. Rewarding their efforts, festival attendees voted *La Vie en Verte* winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature.

The film follows WAMM co-founders Mike and Valerie Corral, who share their hopes and fears through illness, several arrests and a DEA raid. The subsequent court case and seizure of all the collective's medicine finds WAMM members at their darkest hour. Through extensive interviews with several patients, viewers can empathize with the need of sick and dying people to use this healing plant. Indeed, the title *La Vie en Verte* ("The Life in Green") refers to "seeing life through green lenses" and understanding the experience of another human being.

While suffering from the ovarian cancer that would ultimately cause her death, a collective member named Lucy talks with the film-



makers about how medical marijuana and WAMM aided her when she needed it most. Breast-cancer survivor Dianne allows the camera to follow her through a life-affirming transformation, while HIV/AIDS patient Jeremy continues to survive a struggle that has lasted 20 years.

When the DEA arrived at WAMM's garden early on the morning of September 5, 2002, they brought chainsaws to remove more than 100 plants, and guns to subdue the peaceful activists, including Mike, Valerie and Suzanne, a paralyzed patient. Security-camera footage captures the senseless destruction of a life-saving garden. Both Mike and Valerie recount their brutal treatment by the DEA and how, immediately after their arrest, WAMM mem-

bers sprang into action, blocking the steep road up to their garden and preventing the agents from leaving the property. Local media watched as frail patients, some in wheelchairs, refused to let the DEA pass until Valerie and Mike's release was negotiated.

The ongoing federal-court case initiated by this raid was finally settled in early 2010, which means this film has a happy ending! WAMM continues to operate today in Santa Cruz, and they're accepting new members. Please visit wamm.org for more information and look for *La Vie en Verte* at a film festival near you, or find screening dates at thewammovie.com.—Elise McDonough

EL-P

Weareallgoingtoburnin-hellmegamixxx3

(Gold Dust)



Rapper, producer and Def Jux label founder EL-P has a little story he wants to tell you. Make that a pretty damn scary one, too. As a solo artist and frontman for the hip-hop group Company Flow and the producer for Cannibal Ox, Cage, Mr. Lif, Aesop Rock, NIN, Beck and the Mars Volta (among many others), the man's famous for getting a sound that makes you want to smash things. But his new all-instrumental album, *Weareallgoingtoburnin-hellmegamixxx3*, is far, far grander than a mere mixtape of wicked sounds: It's crafted like a really engrossing movie, and each track tells a part of the tale.

The follow-up to his past two mixes of the same name previously released at live shows, this set is another supa-threatening sonic cityscape engorged with ominous bass lines, bruising drum thumps, and approximately one million unhinged and unidentifiable sounds, ladled over tracks with such suitably agitated titles as "Drunk With a Loaded Pistol," "Jump Fence, Run, Live" and "Whores: The Movie." The idea was to make something that played like that old-school idea of an LP record album—something to become immersed in and follow through from beginning to end. An authentically '70s-drenched aura beams down Kodachrome gritty via thrumming snakes of vintage analog synths, cheesy old drum machines, and the buzzes and dings of an especially grim videogame parlor; when EL-P chops it all up and creates transitions between and throughout the songs, you're not sure exactly what you're hearing, but it's definitely something *serious*.—John Payne

EARLY MAN

Death Potion

(The End Records)



When NYC/LA metallians Early Man began blowing up city basements in 2005 with their early Metallica-biting thrash, I became obsessed with them. At the time, metal was deep underground, and for those craving diamond-hard lixxx, their arrival on a soft, sludgy scene could be compared to that of the elves at Helm's Deep. Now, six years later, Early Man have a lot of competition. I think these guys might have fed on adversity, because the melodic and memorable hooks that sustained their earlier efforts are in evidence here on only three tracks: "Fight," "Through Chemtrails" and "The Undertaker's Calling You."

Unfortunately, that's because they *are* earlier efforts. All three appeared on the band's eponymous debut EP and follow-up full-length, *Closing In* (both 2005). "The Undertaker ...," originally a six-minute-plus destroyer, is here split, Van Halen "Eruption" style, into two tracks, with the blistering Maiden-esque solo opener now standing alone as "Through Chemtrails." If I were going to rate this album solely on the strength of these songs, it would get a kilo of sticky bud. But the newer tracks lack inspiration and tuneful riffage, and for some reason, weak, jerky choruses abound. The first time I heard "Someone Else's Nightmare" live, I thought the chorus was a joke.

I'd say buy this for the three gems mentioned and a few glittering shards throughout. I am the last person to wish for metal's demise, but when it inevitably occurs, at least maybe these guys will rise again.—Polly Watson

Touch and Go: The Complete Hardcore Punk Zine, '79-'83

By Tesco Vee and Dave Stimson

(Bazillion Points)



The '80s didn't completely suck—not at first. The underground-music scene was pretty happening back when you actually had to get up off your ass and find it. Coming across this stuff wasn't easy: 'Zines like *Touch and Go*, *Flipside*, *Maximum Rock'n'Roll* and dozens of others spread the "loud fast rules" gospel of hardcore punk in a world where most people thought of Devo when they heard the P-word. And considering the kind of obsessive-compulsive mind that it took to actually paste up and Xerox one of these rags, you pretty much knew, whenever you came by one, that you were reading the words of a true believer.

Now add to that mix two guys from Lansing, MI, who could hate and cuss better than Mel Gibson chugging Pabst at a bar mitzvah, and you get *Touch and Go*. Tesco Vee (frontman for the late, almost great Meatmen) and partner Dave Stimson manage to reference human bodily functions every fourth or fifth sentence throughout this massive collection, and while that might not sound like too good a thing, you have to believe me when I say it is: "SEXISM SUCKS (but it sure makes my spud go turgid)" is a pretty typical headline. Reading this 30 years later, you realize these guys had some good taste—at least in music. And unlike other publications, this one would be proud to take up real estate on your bathroom floor.—Chris Simunek



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LEGAL POT: A WISHED BAG FOR MANY

Prop 19 could spell the end of big money times in the Emerald Triangle.

By Paul Krassner

In California's Humboldt County, where the economy is totally dependent on the superb marijuana, growers are displaying "Keep Pot Illegal" bumper stickers. Blogs predict that tobacco companies will crush small farmers if the legalize-and-tax-pot initiative passes. "If residents don't act," local radio host Anna Hamilton warns, "we're going to be ruined."

So I asked two anti-prohibition writers for their reactions to this dilemma.

Retired Judge Jim Gray, author of *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It: A Judicial Indictment of the War on Drugs*, responded as follows: "With regard to the Humboldt County folks, they raise an obvious point: Why should they vote in favor of government strictly regulating and controlling marijuana when that would deprive many people up there of their source of revenue? It makes perfect economic sense for them to oppose the initiative. Maybe I would, too."

"In fact, when the proposition to treat marijuana like alcohol for adults comes up for a vote this November, we should expect the Mexican drug cartels to be spending literally tens of millions of dollars to safeguard their hundreds of millions in annual profits from the illegal sale of marijuana for the same reasons. Wouldn't you do the same?"

Bill Bradd, the author of *From the Emerald Triangle: Notes of a Renegade Farmer in the Far Hills* (\$16 from Ten Mile River Press, PO Box 1840, Fort Bragg, CA 95437), had this to say: "From the perspective of a local in the Emerald Triangle, to legalize pot or not is a quandary. It seems that some of the big, glossy magazines of the industry, like *Nug*, are advocating strongly for legalization. But up here, people smell the wind for danger: Word's out that there's a forest fire in the hills."

"It seems to be the intrinsic nature of industries to change—and now, with legalization almost upon us, the cannabis industry has reached the same threshold. But this is not the first time that change has come to our industry. Not too long ago, we passed Prop. 215, and the legalization door was ajar. Us back-hills people were not happy about that, any more



How would legalization affect NoCal's big growers?

'Once the snout of the government gets under the tent-flap door, its sniffer twitches for a multitude of reasons.'

Above. Our outdoor price dropped dramatically, indoor price rose. Good on ya. But us hill guys, our product had lost its cachet. Smokers wanted variance, boutique product, and our wonderful organic hill-weed had trouble selling. For us, it was a case of adapt or move to Costa Rica.

"A new language was invented. Community activists were out with petitions advocating legalization. 'Well-meaning,' I said to my neighbor. It's a little late now for hysteria—I see 'pot' on people's grocery lists, right after 'bread' and 'milk.' I think smokers will vote their pocket-books. Plus the home gardener is being schooled by outfits every weekend.

"Eventually, the do-it-yourself gardener will get it right, take himself and his neighbors right out of the customer pool. I don't see big Sacramento interests or tobacco companies crushing us, contrary to rumor—it'll be the home gardener with some plants to sell on his patio. I think the big-money times are over; adapting into the byproduct market is how some will hang on. As for 'boutique,' I'll be curious to see how that fares. And for the taxation issue: Once the snout of government gets under the tent-flap door, its sniffer twitches for a multitude of reasons.

"Change has always ground small towns to dust—be they timber towns on the Upper Peninsula or fishing villages, they come and go. Permanence was one of the limbs we lost when we disengaged from our tails. The river takes a different bend suddenly, and you're left high and dry. Progress is like the wind: It sweeps all before it. The sky is paler. I heard there was a forest fire." ✨

Paul Krassner, who was last seen peeing on that forest fire, publishes the infamous Disneyland Memorial Orgy poster, available at paulkrassner.com.

than the moonshiners of old were happy when Prohibition ended. "Soon, the old-time wildcat growers out in the hills—those guys trying to get lucky powered by supreme effort—were ousted with the arrival of full-bore indoor growing. They overwhelmed us. Who knew? I was watching for cops and helicopters, the Terror From

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HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH THE ROAST BEEF CURTAINS

Inspired by tight reggae rhythm sections and thrashing punk bands, three Hofstra University graduates birthed the Roast Beef Curtains. Taking a DIY approach, Andrew, John and Mike evolved the RBC into the best live reggae, dub and punk experience on Long Island.

Since 2005, the trio has played well over 200 shows. Onstage, each band member works double and sometimes triple duty, playing their instruments while also controlling the live dub effects, thereby transforming every concert into an ear-gasmic experience.

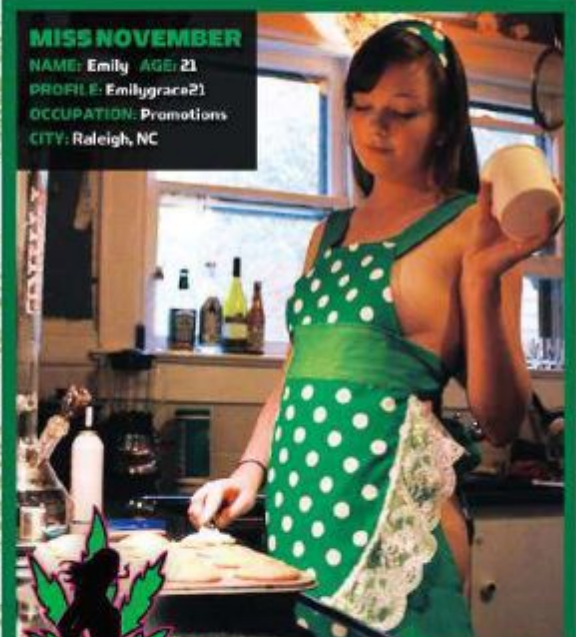
In the summer of 2009, the trio turned quartet when they added melodica and keyboard specialist Jimmy as the final piece to their puzzle. Since then, the Curtains have expanded their act into a full-scale jam and psychedelic party!

Each band member brings influences from a wide variety of artists, including Ween, King Tubby, Bad Brains and the Grateful Dead. The result is a mixture of authentic dub, improvisation and psychedelic reggae sprinkled with some gritty punk rock.

In addition to heavy touring within the tri-state area, the band has taken the national stage on many occasions, most notably performing at the Bonnaroo Music Festival in 2010 and playing for over 1.2 million TV viewers on the WPIX *Morning Show*. Be sure to pick up the *Pleasure EP*, the long-awaited debut release from the RBC, and stay tuned for the full-length album scheduled to drop in 2011. For more on the Roast Beef Curtains, including audio samples and tour info, check out hightimes.com/theroastbeefcurtains.

MISS NOVEMBER

NAME: Emily AGE: 21
PROFILE: Emilygrace21
OCCUPATION: Promotions
CITY: Raleigh, NC



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BY BOBBY BLACK

TRAGEDY IN B MINOR

Goth-rock icon Peter Steele takes the D train to oblivion.

trag-e-dy

1 a: a medieval narrative poem or tale typically describing the downfall of a great man

b: a serious drama typically describing a conflict between the protagonist and a superior force (as destiny) and having a sorrowful or disastrous conclusion that elicits pity or terror

Normally around this time of year, I'd be gearing up for the usual round of Halloween shows by Brooklyn goth-metal group Type O Negative. Sadly, that tradition came to an abrupt end with the passing this spring of the band's bassist, vocalist and driving force, Peter Steele. The six-foot-seven *übermensch* with the deep voice and dark sense of humor formed the band in 1989 after splitting up his former group, legendary hardcore band Carnivore. Despite their notorious association with the color green, Type O were never really into weed; nonetheless, I'm paying tribute to Steele this month because ... well, because I knew him.

I grew up with Type O Negative. As a young metalhead in Brooklyn, Type O were *my band*. They hung out with people I knew, sang about places I'd been. I was at their very first performance (as Repulsion) at L'Amour in 1990, and thereafter prided myself on never missing a single show. I collected every press clip and article, got them to sign a *Slow Deep and Hard* poster, and even fought for 20 minutes in the moshpit at a Carnivore reunion show to hold onto Steele's homemade spiked "armor" that he'd thrown out into the crowd—a prize I cherish to this day.

Eventually, guitarist Kenny Hickey and I became good friends, and thanks to an odd twist of fate, I ended up renting out his mom's basement for about three years. During this time, I was fortunate enough to be invited into the band's inner circle. Keyboardist Josh Silver (the only pothead in the band at the time) was the first musical artist I ever interviewed for HIGH TIMES. I visited his home studio during the mixing of *Bloody Kisses* and was among the first people to hear the demos. I spent three days on the road with the band during Ozzfest 1996 and

roadied for Kenny once up in Connecticut. I hung out with them in Ace London Studios during their rehearsals for *World Coming Down*. I even spent Christmas with Kenny's family and attended Josh's wedding.

But despite all this, Peter was the one guy in the band I never really developed a friendship with. Was it because he had to lean so far



RIP Peter Steele.

down to talk to me? Or because I didn't have tits? Or because, deep down, he never really took off that armor? I guess I'll never know. What I *do* know is that he was a musical genius. In both of his bands, Steele pushed the boundaries of "decency" and humor. In the early days, his lyrics were often offensive for the sake of being offensive—filled with tongue-in-cheek violence and anger and taken to the absurd. His sardonic satire eventually evolved into an

almost romantic nihilism. With songs like "Everything Dies," "Dead Again" and "Life Is Killing Me," Steele seemed obsessed with death—particularly his own. Over the years, he'd predicted, faked and even attempted his own demise. But it wasn't until this spring that the Grim Reaper finally caught up with him.

It's been suggested to me that the passing of a person so obsessed with death can hardly be viewed as "tragic"—but really, it's the very epitome of tragedy in the classical sense of the word. Like so many tormented artists before him, he was melancholic, misanthropic and misunderstood, and in constant combat with the forces of alienation, alcoholism and addiction.

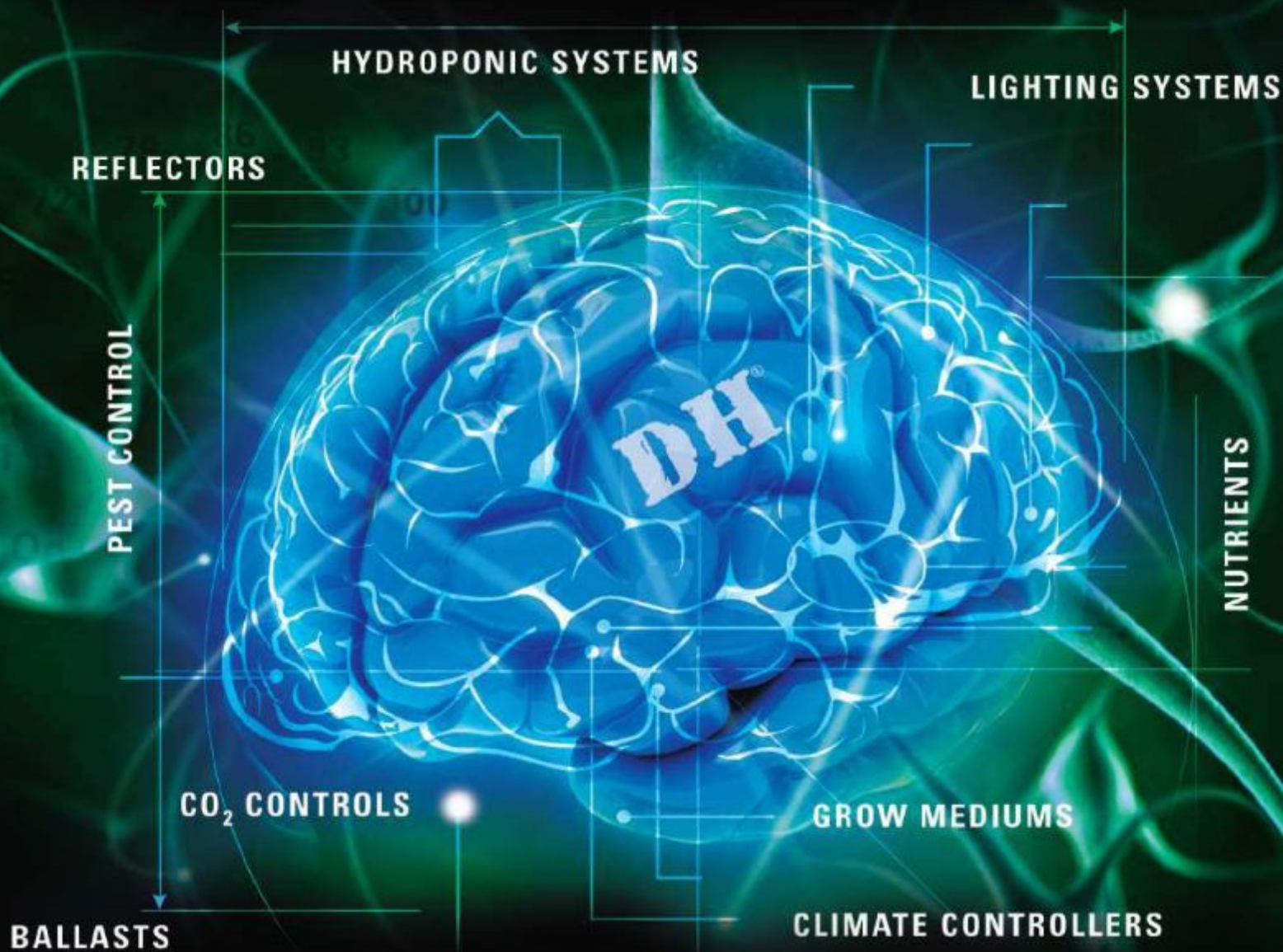
After several stints in rehab, Steele was supposedly doing better. The last time I saw him perform, he seemed to have grown a bit fat and sloppy, like some Elvis Frankenstein. But personally, I'll always remember him as that proletarian provocateur onstage at the Limelight, the not-so-jolly green giant who took a handsaw to his bass strings at the Cabaret club, the almost Shakespearean antihero who wore his "inner conflict" on his sleeve.

Peter Steele was one of the most unique people I've ever known, and for me and so many of his fans, his passing feels "like a death in the family." 🍀

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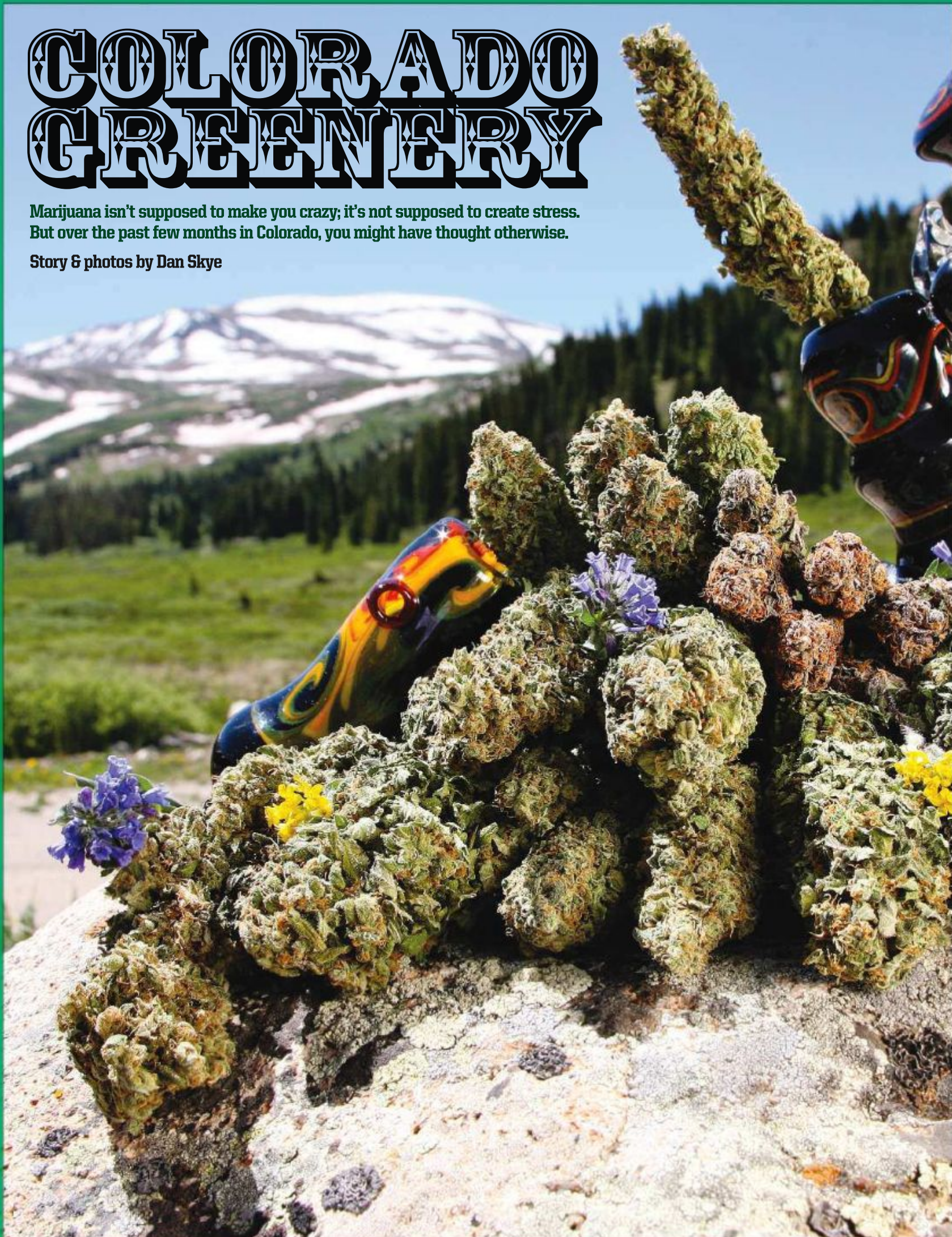
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COLORADO GREENERY

Marijuana isn't supposed to make you crazy; it's not supposed to create stress. But over the past few months in Colorado, you might have thought otherwise.

Story & photos by Dan Skye





A high altitude pot portrait (11,000 feet) near Alma, CO. Strains (L to R): Cherry Lime, Maui OG, Blueberry, Hawaiian Sativa, Grape Ape on top

New legislation, government deadlines, regulatory guidelines, contracts, partnerships, corporations: This isn't the United Auto Workers or the Teamsters we're talking about—this is Colorado's cannabis industry! Suddenly last summer in the Rocky Mountain State, the weed world was yanked into a real world of regulation and government oversight. But for many Colorado cannabis businesses, the new legislation signed into law by Governor Bill Ritter in June was a death knell. Of the approximately 1,100 dispensaries operating at that time, *half* are expected to close.

Some members of the cannabis community grudgingly admit that perhaps it was time to rein in the industry. In 2000, voters passed an actual amendment to the state constitution (Amendment 20) that allowed the use of medical marijuana by registered patients. Additionally, the law offered residents who'd been busted and had failed to join the state registry the option of mounting an "affirmative defense of medical necessity."

Pot lovers rejoiced, but it took nearly a decade for the medical-marijuana industry to establish it-

'Governor Ritter announced that the new cannabis laws would "strike a delicate balance between protecting public safety and respecting the will of the voters.'

self in the state. The Bush administration's constant pressure on California dispensaries made prospective Colorado cannabis entrepreneurs wary of exercising their own rights under state law. That all changed when US Attorney General Eric Holder announced early in 2009 that medical-marijuana businesses operating in compliance with state law wouldn't be hassled by the Feds.

At that point, the floodgates opened. Since Holder's statement, thousands of residents have lined up to get registered, and hundreds of dispensaries have opened their doors to serve them. (The volume of new patients is so high that the Colorado Department of Health currently states on its website that it will no longer review applications, issue receipts, or accept and answer questions at the walk-up window.) But while everyone cherishes a utopian ideal for cannabis—one that entails full access to healthy medicine at a reasonable price—the unbridled pursuit of the quick buck did, in fact, taint the public's perception of the new industry. Areas like the "Green Mile," situated along South Broadway in Denver—where over 20 dispensaries opened in a matter of months—made many people anxious, despite the fact that the majority of these places are secure, well-run establishments.

It may be heresy to say it, but maybe—just maybe—the industry was moving too fast. Years of Drug War rhetoric continue to prejudice otherwise intelligent people, and perhaps the avalanche of dispensaries simply outdistanced

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

At Full Spectrum Laboratories, cannabis is tested for quality assurance.



Cannabis gets a close inspection at Full Spectrum.

Wouldn't you like to choose your pot based on THC content, cannabinoid levels and purity rather than relying on the strain name, general appearance and experiences of others as your guide? Colorado patients can now expect to be provided with this information, because reputable dispensaries are routinely using Full Spectrum Laboratories to analyze their merchandise.

Full Spectrum is an independent botanical-testing lab that provides quantification, certification and product-safety testing for the medical-cannabis industry. Based in Denver, the lab's headquarters are located in what was once a community-outreach center. After a complete renovation, the building is now a sparkling testing facility with an isolated ventilation system to ensure the precision of its work, which includes analyzing samples for the presence of mold and fungus, heavy metals, and pesticides. A growing number of dispensaries use Full Spectrum to test all of their strains, edibles and plant extracts. For large dispensaries like Denver's Patients Choice, this could comprise up to 80 samples per month.

Robert Winnicki is the director of Full Spectrum. He cites Steep Hill Laboratories, based in Oakland, CA, as the pioneer of the cannabis-testing industry. While Steep Hills initially relied on gas chromatography (GC) to measure THC levels, these days both labs use high-performance-liquid chromatography (HPLC) to get more accurate results. "The real problem with GC testing is that the number you get is anywhere between 20 and 40 percent low," Robert explains. "So if you get a figure of 10 percent, the number is actually 12 or



Denver medical growers must now sell 70% of their crop to one dispensary.



Frank Quattrone of Denver's PURE dispensary.

'If you have 3,000 people in the state growing 50 plants in their basements, how do you maintain any quality control?'

and licensed on both the state and local levels.

Frank Quattrone, who runs the Pure Medical Dispensary in Denver, says: "I feel bad about those people who invested thousands of dollars in their grow op or dispensary—but what the state didn't want was for the cannabis to be grown in the basement of a residential home and have growers going from dispensary to dispensary, door to door." As a result of the new laws, the directors of Pure forged an alliance with their top grower, who runs a massive operation in the Denver suburbs and whose crops are always top-notch.

"If you have 3,000 people in the state growing 50 plants in their basements, how do you maintain any quality control?" Quattrone asks. "I'm not just talking about potency; I'm talking about mold, fungus and heavy-metal content—standards that any consumer product should abide by. We are exiting the Wild West days and entering into a new era of business."

As well as a new era of bureaucratic bullshit. Many observers believe that in the state's rush to set up a system of regulation, the needs of the patient have gotten lost in the shuffle. The revenue being raked in by cannabis businesses seemed to be of more concern than the integrity of the law, which guarantees access for Coloradoans in need. The new law imposes a statewide moratorium on new dispensaries and allows cities and counties to ban them altogether—which will make it that much harder for many patients to acquire their medicine.

The law establishes new guidelines for patients as well: Now, rather than going for a simple medical consultation, they'll be required to get a full physical examination and form a continuing relationship with their recommending physician. This will increase the financial hardship on low-income patients—and considering the fact that over-the-counter medica-

people's comfort zones. More significantly, many cannabis professionals were dismayed by the quality of the bud that was being marketed—overpriced, overhyped med-pot that lacked any notation, let alone assurance, of quality or safety.

Politicians were eager to put controls in place—and in June, they did just that. Governor Ritter announced that the new cannabis laws would "strike a delicate balance between protecting public safety and respecting the will of the voters." But the new laws have impacted the dispensary scene considerably. Suddenly, dispensaries were bound by so-called "70/30 legislation," which requires them to grow a minimum of 70 percent of their products. Likewise, growers are now required by law to sell 70 percent of their crops through one dispensary.

Medical growers and dispensaries rushed to link up and form partnerships, corporations, and whatever other legal arrangements they could make to stay in business—especially since, as of September 1, all dispensaries, growers and makers of cannabis-infused products have to be registered

Sweet Seeds



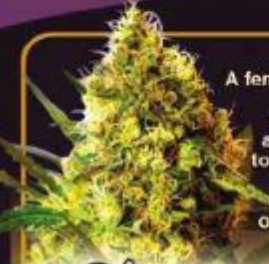
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Big Devil

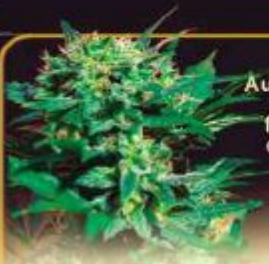
Autoflowering: 100% Indoor Blooming: 6 weeks.
Indoor/Outdoor Harvest: 9 weeks from the germination. Height: 1-2 m.
3s. \$32,98
5s. \$64,50 / 10s. \$109



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

Fast Bud

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



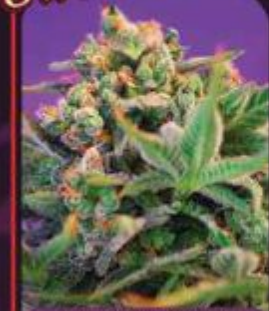
Automatic feminised variety. The beginning of its flowering does not depend on season or photoperiod; therefore it can be grown all year round. Extremely fast flowering, it's height does not exceed 80 cm. Sweet aroma, hints of cheese and yeast.

Speed Devil

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

Sweet Cheese

New



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

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

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

Snow Fruit

New



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

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

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

Double White

New



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

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

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

Cream Caramel



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



Indica/Sativa: 90%-10%.
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, beginning of October.

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

S.A.D. S-1



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



Indica/Sativa: 90%-10%.
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September.

3s. \$21,50 / 5s. \$43,02 / 10s. \$86,04

Black Jack



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



Indica/Sativa: 50%-50%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Beginning of October.

3s. \$27,24 / 5s. \$48,76 / 10s. \$97,52

Jack 47



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

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

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

Ice Cool



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

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

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

Green Poison



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

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

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

Sweet Tai

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

Wild Rose

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

Mohan Ram

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

Psicodelicia

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

Ganesh Spirit

Sativa clone from Northern India's mountains
Indica/Sativa: 40%-60%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Beginning-mid October.
3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

Flash Back #2

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

Botafumeiros

Asian ancestry and Haze
Indica/Sativa: 25%-75%.
Indoor Blooming: 10 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Mid to late October.
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C.Pack #1
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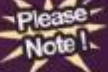
C.Pack #2
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Cream Caramel · Ice Cool
Sweet Tai
\$68,84

C.Pack #3
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Mohan Ram · Flash Back #2
Double White
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COLORADO

tions like acetaminophen and common aspirin have the potential to kill but require no such medical evaluation, it's obvious that the acceptance of cannabis still has a long way to go.

One of the most patient-oriented dispensaries in the state is the aptly named Patients Choice, the first dispensary to open on the "Green Mile." Its facility is airy and convivial, while its staff works hard to keep the patient base of 4,000 people satisfied. Patients Choice offers grow classes, acupuncture, nutrition info, massage and one-to-one consultations with expert gardeners. The owners admit: "Now that we're getting regulated—and it's kind of nice to have a true free market, because it keeps you sharp—you've got to have your prices right. You've got to be on point, because why would they come here if they've got 1,500 places to go to?"

But not everyone in the state has the luxury of choice—certainly not those who live in tiny Alma, located in the mountains of central Colorado. Sparse populations eliminate the need for multiple dispensaries, but caring for patients is no less important. The dispensaries that do operate here

'It's kind of nice to have a true free market, because it keeps you sharp. You've got to be on point. Why would they come here if they've got 1,500 places to go to?'

are neighborly establishments; everybody knows everybody in the mountains, and neighbors want to help neighbors. The result is some of the finest medicine available in the state. The proprietors of High Country Healing in Alma are on a first-name basis with all of their patients and offer over 100 different genetic varieties of cannabis. It's also the headquarters of Americamm.org, a nonprofit organization for seriously ill patients that assists them with rent, living expenses and whatever else they need.

In the end, a number of legal issues have been created with the passage of these new med-pot restrictions. Lawmakers and the courts will eventually have to address the problems involving zoning laws, licensing fees, confidentiality requirements, advertising limits, search-and-seizure laws, workplace consumption, property rights, public safety, and controls over cannabis food products and the operation of grow houses.

Will the free market triumph under the weight of all these new regulations? Probably, but it will be harder. Most business owners who have committed themselves to compliance hope that the age-old business precepts of quality and service will lead to prosperity and longevity. But it's also obvious that compassion for patients will figure as a major component in the success of medical-marijuana dispensaries. It remains the one standard of cannabis commerce that can't be legislated. ✨



Samples ready for testing.



Robert Winnicki (center) with the Full Spectrum staff.



Measuring the cannabinoid profile.



Dispensaries depend on Full Spectrum for quality assurance.

13 percent. It's like weighing a piece of paper on a scale, lighting it, and trying to get an accurate reading as it's burning—the sample changes as you measure it. The HPLC doesn't work like that; instead of vaporizing the sample and running it through the detector, the cannabinoids never leave the liquid state. Instead of just reporting the THC number, we're able to show the acid variance and the neutral variance of the cannabinoid. We provide data on how much inactive THC is in it, and how much active THC."

Full Spectrum has also been responsible for debunking the THC myths that growers have cultivated around their strains. "Plants cannot contain more than 25 to 26 percent THC levels—it is physically impossible," Robert states flatly. "First of all, the plant is not 25 percent trichomes; even if the trichomes were 100 percent THC, the raw plant itself is not 25 percent trichomes. Think of it like this: 70 percent of you is water, correct? It's the same thing for a plant. After you take out the chlorophyll, the cell walls and everything else that is not THC, all you really have left is 25 percent. But if your business is based solely on numbers, maybe you inflate THC levels. If your first crop is 22 percent and you claim your medicine is the best, and somebody claims 23 down the street, you might report 24 next week. It becomes a vicious cycle."

Dealing with outrageous claims is part of Full Spectrum's daily work. "When people find out that their '30 percent' strain is actually a 12, it's a heartbreak. There are edibles in town with claims of huge concentrations of THC," Robert says. "We tested one sample—it had 1 milligram of THC. That's breaking the law! It's ripping sick people off!"

Full Spectrum tests for mercury, lead and cadmium as well. "Some of the nutrients out there have what I would consider dangerous levels of the heavy metals," Robert confides. "What a lot of people don't realize is that hemp and cannabis are actually very good at taking up

heavy metals. It's actually used as a bioremediation product in some parts of the world—if a ground field is contaminated by mercury, planting lots and lots of hemp will, over time, pull the heavy metals out of the soil. But if you're growing cannabis with a heavy-metal-contaminated solution, or if you don't flush well, the result will be a product that has been potentially contaminated with high levels of mercury, cadmium or lead."

Betty Aldworth, the vice president of Full Spectrum, adds this cautionary tale: "In our early days, one of our other representatives went to a wellness center to pick up some samples from the manager. About 45 minutes later, he got a call: 'You have to bring those back—the grower came in and doesn't want those tested.' Because he knew that he doesn't flush his crops enough. He knew pesticides would be present. There are people who don't want testing because they know their products can't make the cut."

Full Spectrum is also at the forefront of technology that will allow samples to be tested for their genetic origins. In other words, if you think you're buying an OG Kush, you'll have some guarantee that you actually are.

For all these reasons, the prestige of Full Spectrum Labs can only grow. After all, who doesn't want the very best pot—medicinal or otherwise?

"Some people like us, some people don't," Robert says. "Everyone who works here holds a bachelor's of science or higher in some science-related field. Everyone here has been doing chemistry for years. We follow the same procedures that forensic scientists follow—the exact same procedures."

He also points out one final upside to testing cannabis stringently: "Dispensaries can use the data we provide as a two-pronged marketing tool," Robert says. "Number one, they can say: 'We have clean, safe, reliable medicine.' Or they can claim: 'We've got the bomb!'" —DS
Visit fullspectrumlaboratories.com.

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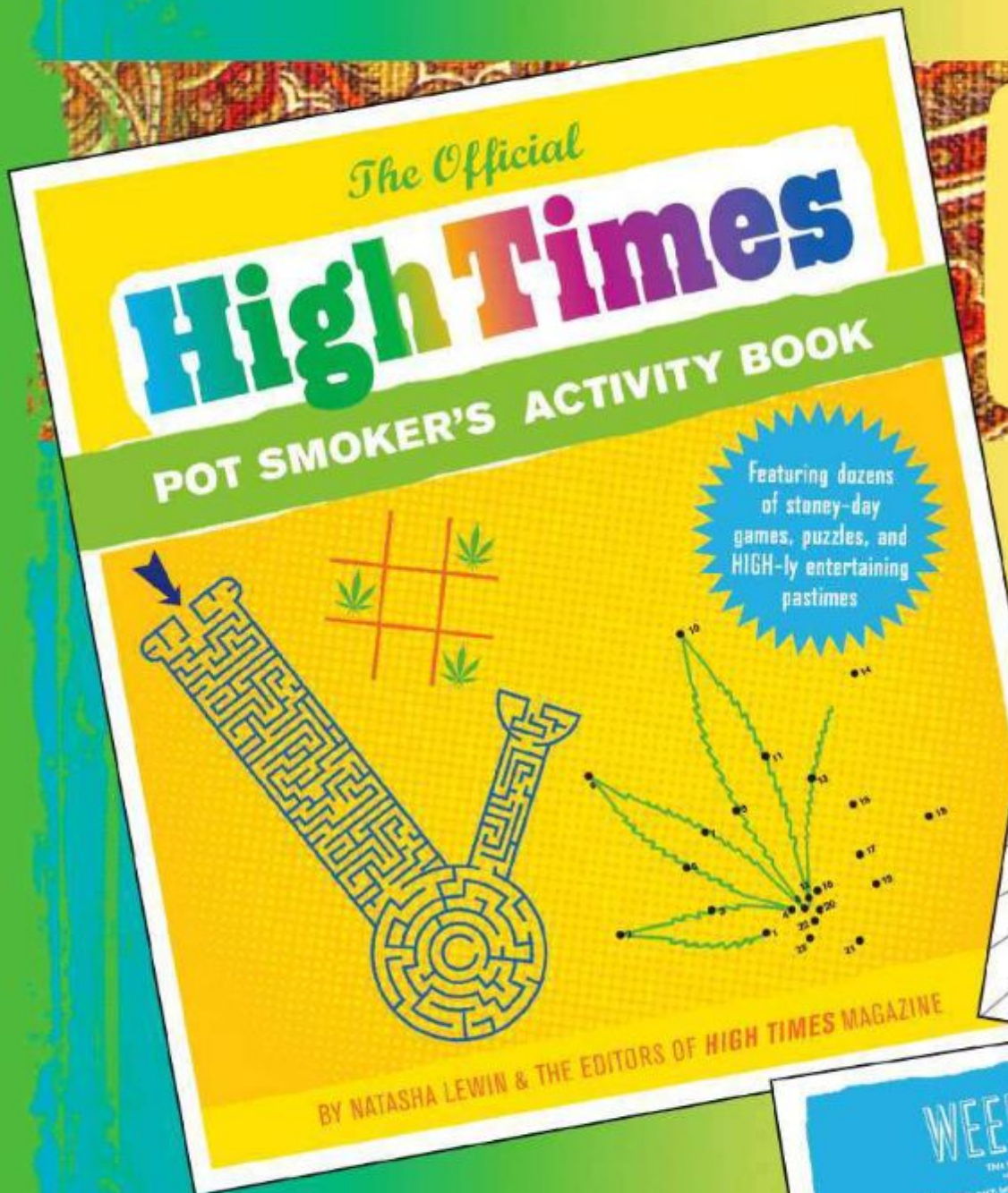
composition

vegetable compost, native block cut florida peat, chunky perlite, coconut coir, dolomitic lime, organic chicken manure, gypsum, 72 natural organic trace minerals

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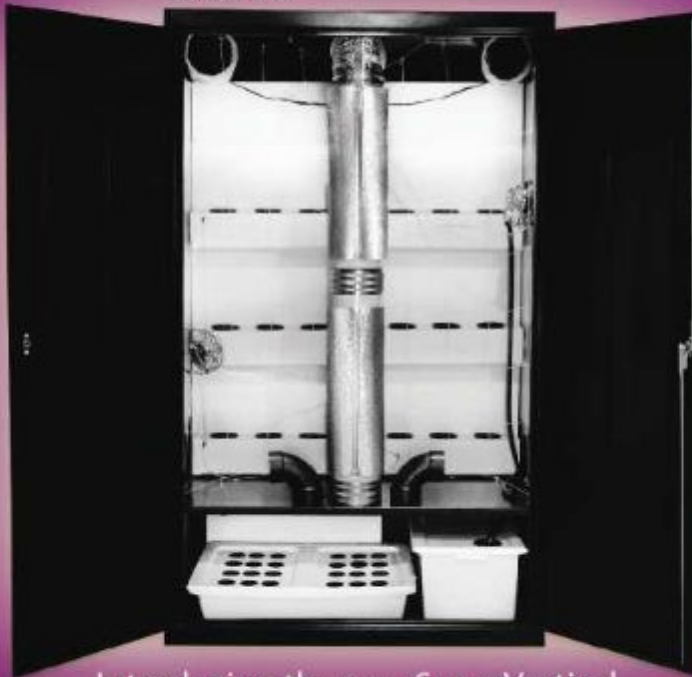
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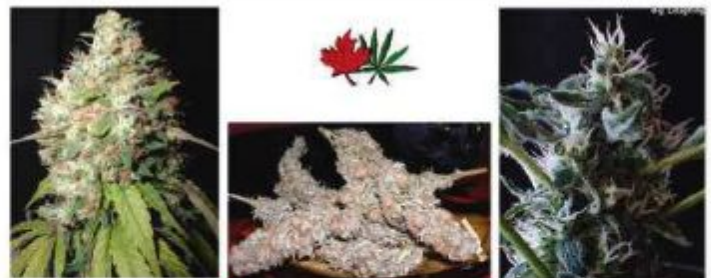


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Why should outdoor growers have all the fun(gus)? Here's a simple and informative guide to staying 100% organic in your closet or other small grow space. Story & photos by Mr. Hades

Clean white walls reflect light to reach lower branches and leaves.

CLOSET GROWING FOR SUPERIOR CANNABIS

Bella Ciao from Tiki Seeds, organically grown in a closet.

Introduction

Many people want to know the secret to growing high-quality, connoisseur-level buds in their closets or other small spaces without having to rely on complex hydroponic units, synthetic nutrients or difficult-to-prepare soil mixes. The fact is, there is no "secret" to it—all you have to do is treat your plants the way they deserve to be treated. And the best way to do that is to duplicate nature in your own home by making your grow as organic as possible; don't complicate things with expensive equipment or synthetic chemicals that can quickly damage your plants. It's also important to avoid *overcaring* for your plants by feeding or watering them too much.

A simple way to achieve high-quality buds from a closet grow is by going 100% organic. Using a variety of efficient methods and techniques will allow you to gradually "dial in" how to get a great organic harvest with every cycle. Organically grown cannabis undoubtedly possesses a taste, aroma and appearance that exceeds those of chemically grown nuggets. All it requires is an understanding of the symbiotic relationship between the beneficial microbes in "living soil" and the plant roots that share the space.

Grow Stats

Room: 6' x 6' closet

Lighting: 400-watt metal-halide (MH) and T5 with daylight bulbs

Soil/Nutes: FoxFarm Original Planting Mix

FoxFarm Happy Frog Potting Soil

Earth Juice Grow

Earth Juice Bloom

Blackstrap molasses

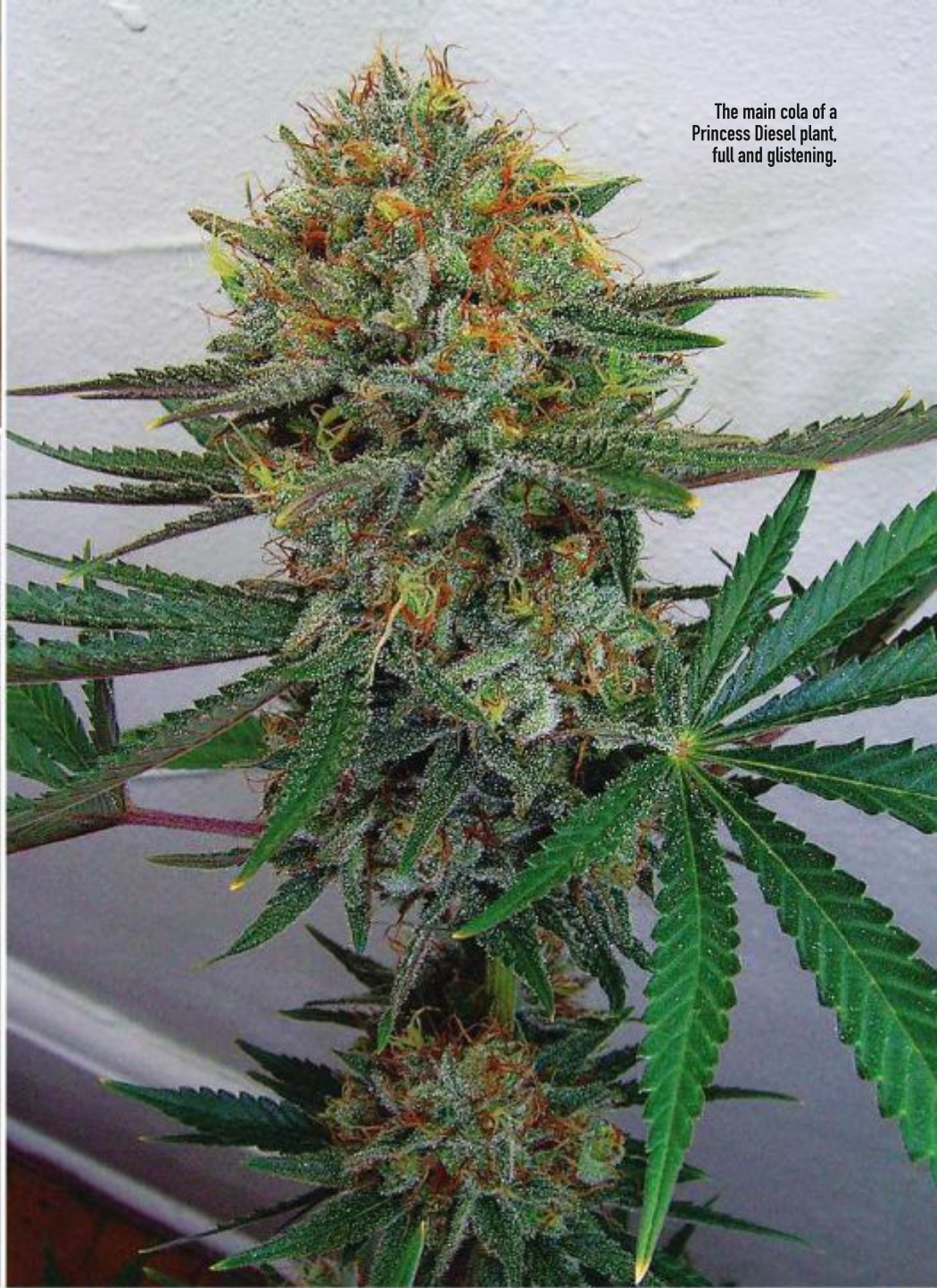
Genetics: Bella Ciao (by Tiki Seeds Company)

Princess Diesel

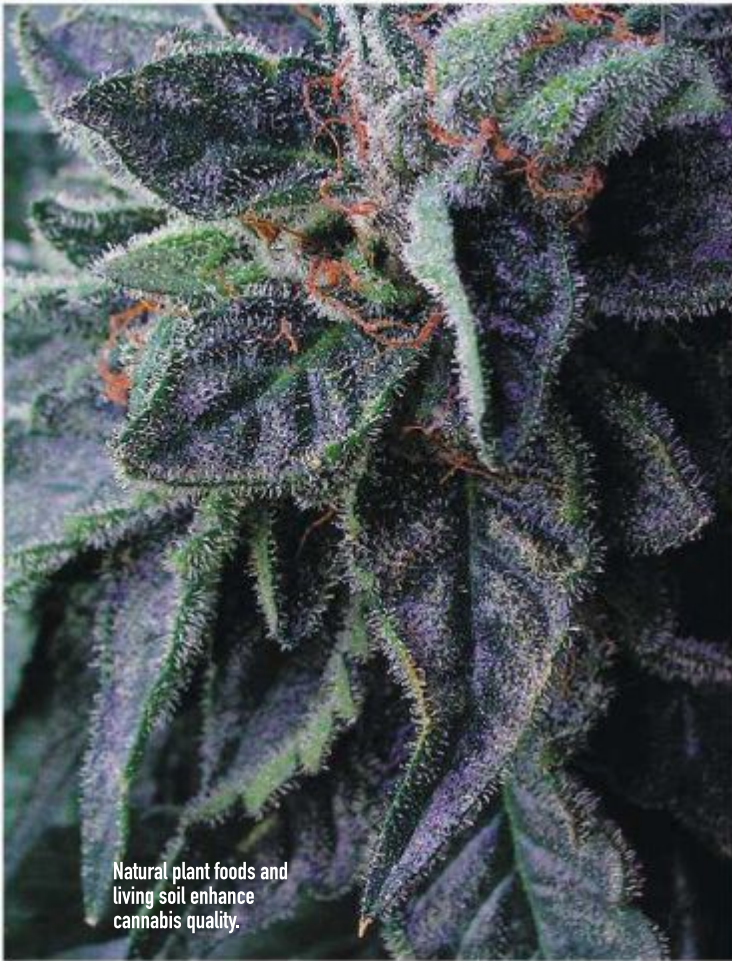
P- 91



A nug of Princess Diesel on display.



The main cola of a Princess Diesel plant, full and glistening.



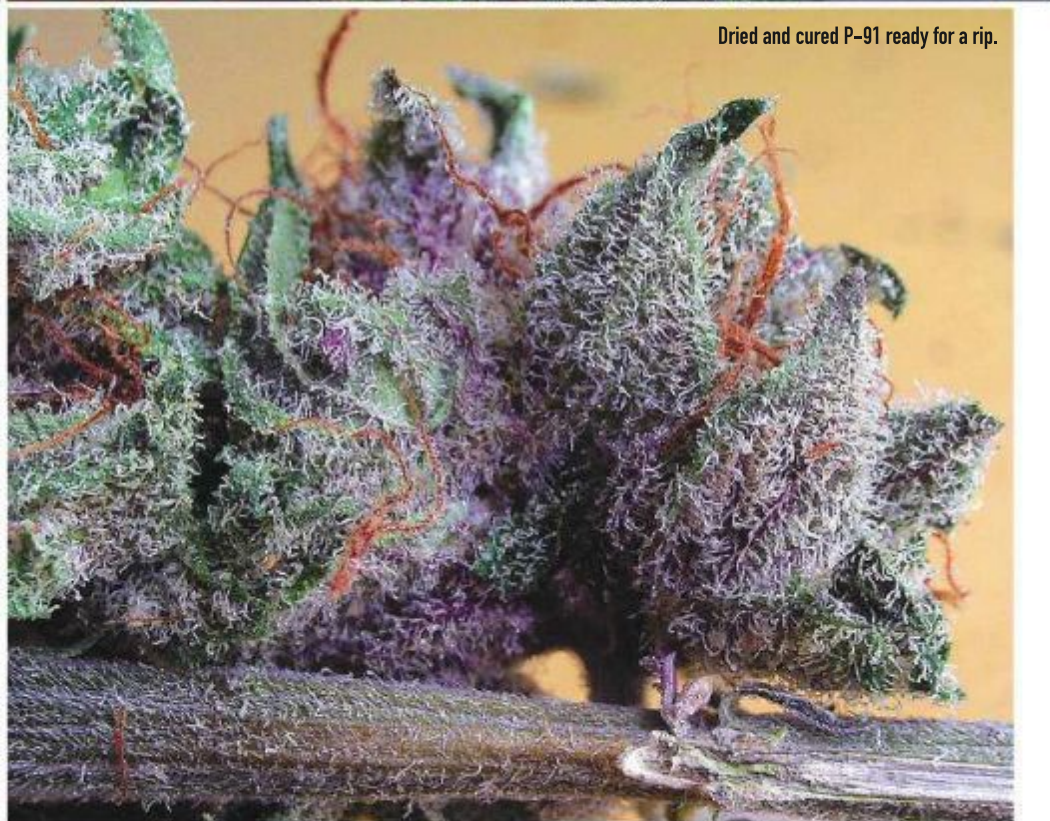
Natural plant foods and living soil enhance cannabis quality.

What Is 'Organic'?

All organic products are not created equal. "Organic-based" and "100% organic" are two totally different things: "Organic-based" means that the products contain chemicals and ingredients that are not considered fully organic and therefore should not be used if you want a 100% organic harvest. On the other hand, "100% organic" means just that: The company has either gone through organic certification for their product, or it was made without pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, genetically modified organisms or ionizing radiation.

Make sure that all your nutrients and soil mixes are *100% organic* by reading the label carefully. If you have any questions about a product, ask the manufacturer or store employee about it. If need be, simply tell them you're growing indoor organic tomatoes, as their needs are somewhat similar to cannabis plants.

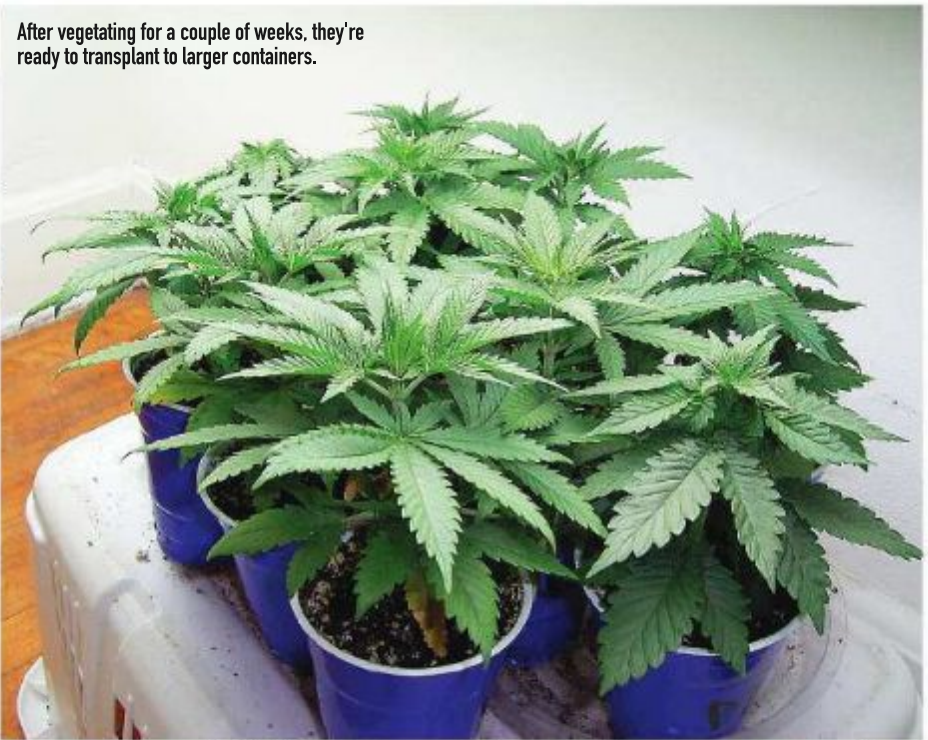
Fully organic liquid nutrients will be thicker than their synthetic counterparts and will sometimes look and smell exactly like what they're made from: poo. But don't be worried—these products are a natural and mild food that your plants can easily absorb. Some of their awesome ingredients include earthworm castings, bird and bat guano, Norwegian sea kelp, composted peat moss and sphagnum peat moss, just to name a few. FoxFarm Ocean Forest Soil Mix contains ingredients like fish and crab meal that are also great food for your plants.



Dried and cured P-91 ready for a rip.



Seedlings sprout in 16 oz. plastic cups full of soil mix.



After vegetating for a couple of weeks, they're ready to transplant to larger containers.

Buy or Mix?

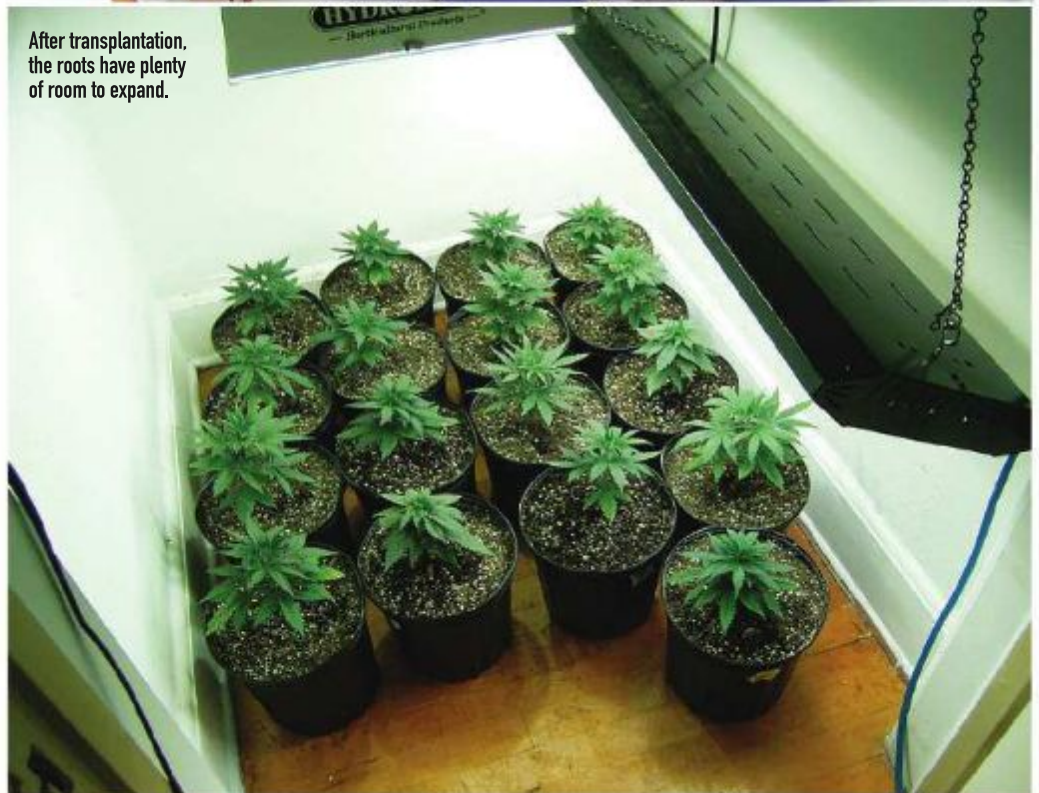
FoxFarm and Earth Juice are two excellent companies offering 100% organic soil mixes and nutrients that are both simple to use and mild for your plants. Buying a pre-mixed, high-quality product like these is more expensive, but it's also more efficient than making your own mix, for several reasons.

A high-quality grow medium such as FoxFarm's Happy Frog Potting Soil will start off your seedlings perfectly and won't need any added nutrients for up to two to four weeks from germination; simply add plain water in lieu of feeding. For this grow, FoxFarm's Happy Frog Potting Soil and Original Planting Mix were used in conjunction with Earth Juice Grow and Bloom nutrient products to produce top-quality, medicinal-grade buds. There were no additives or stimulants involved, and no pesticides or inorganic fertilizers were introduced to these plants.

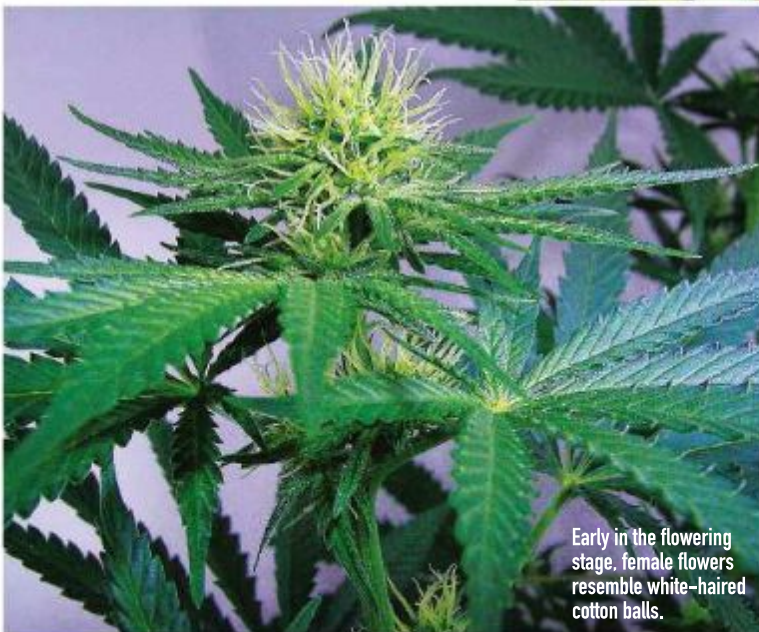
Less Is More

Keep in mind when feeding your plants to always use *less* than the label says. The company's information on dosage isn't always plant-specific or precise (they want to sell more nutrients, of course), and feeding less is always better than feeding too much. Also, use diluted or half-doses of all fertilizers before you know what they can do.

Always oxygenate and/or distill water in an open container for at least 24 hours before adding any organic matter in order to dechlorinate the water and prevent damage to your roots (as well as the mycorrhizae, the biological "microherd" in your soil). The chlorine will dissipate into the air, leaving your water cleaner and ready to use.



After transplantation, the roots have plenty of room to expand.



Early in the flowering stage, female flowers resemble white-haired cotton balls.



Plants will continue to stretch during the first weeks of budding.

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Big Buddha Box

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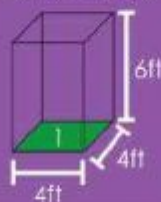
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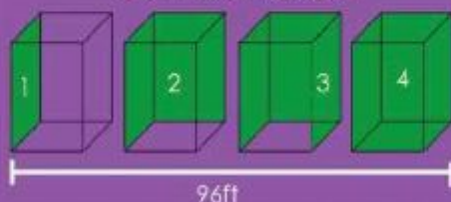


Big Buddha Box
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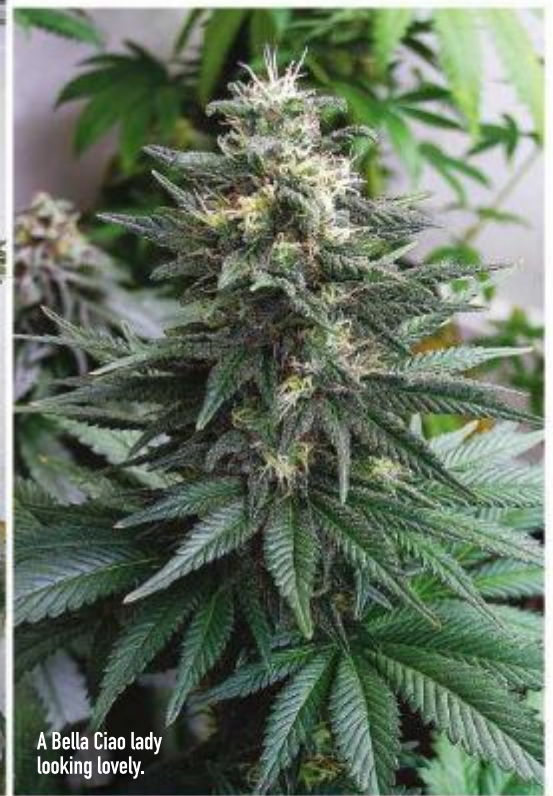
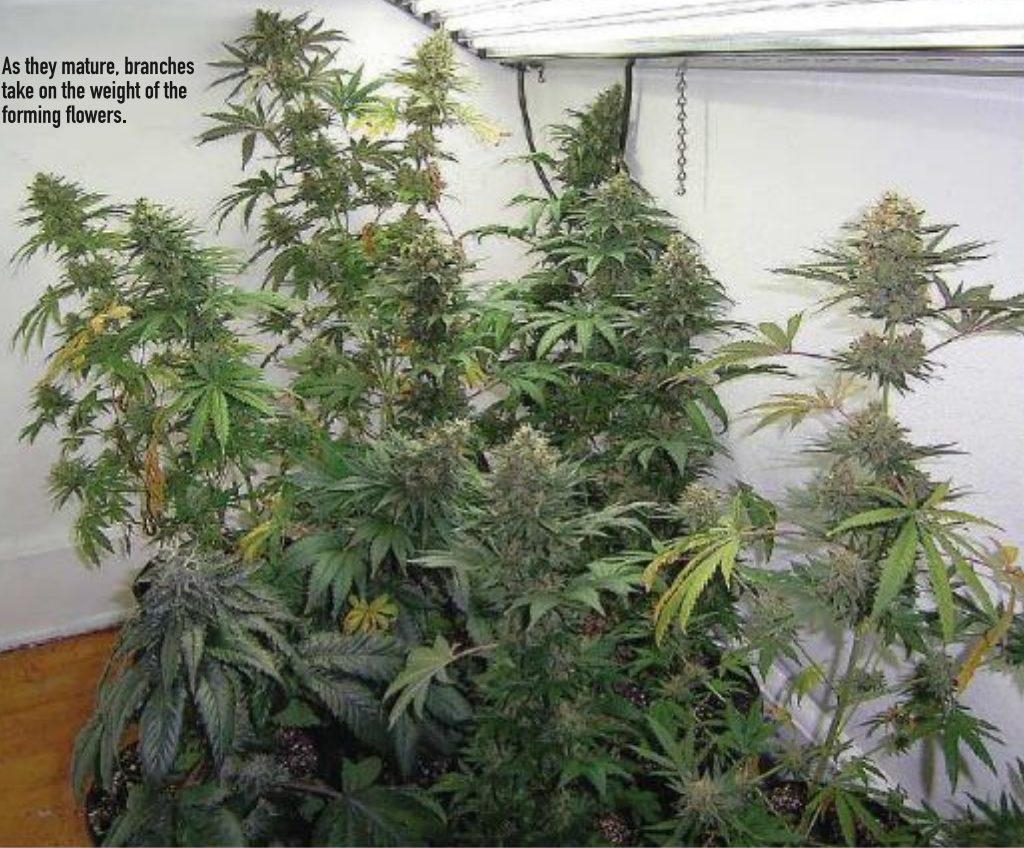
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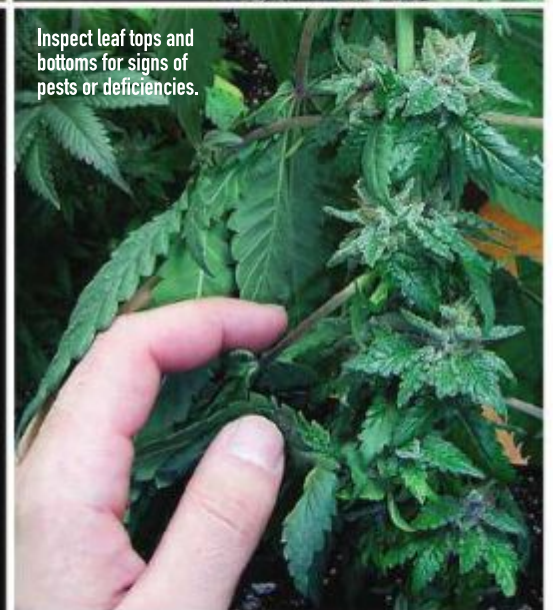
www.myspace.com/musicoverdose

As they mature, branches take on the weight of the forming flowers.



A Bella Ciao lady looking lovely.

Inspect leaf tops and bottoms for signs of pests or deficiencies.



Organics and pH

With organic growing, pH isn't an issue as long as you're using the correct organic mixes, since most contain a very high amount of humus (humates), which works to buffer the pH of the grow medium and nutrients. Humate materials are substances formed from the biological and chemical breakdown of animal and plant life over an extremely long period of time (usually millions of years). Humates do a lot more than simply buffer pH; they also reduce germination time, expand root growth, increase oxygen in the soil, increase water retention, bond pesticides and heavy metals, and transport microelements for absorption.

Pay Attention to Your 'Microherd'

The mycorrhizae in your soil play a big part in the success of organic growing, and by using mild nutrient mixes and plain, dechlorinated water, you can keep your microherd alive and well, ensuring that your plants' water and nutrient uptake are at their highest—which in turn will mean overall improved plant growth and yields thanks to a healthy, living grow medium.

Cleanliness of the grow space is essential to avoiding many maladies.



Clean House

Before starting a grow, make sure the room is fully cleaned and sterilized with mild household cleaners. Take all of your existing plants out of the room and place them in a separate clean, safe room, then stop the ventilation in your growroom. Sweep and vacuum the entire area and wipe down the floors, walls and ceiling with a mild soap mix.

After the room is clean, put your plants back in and resume ventilation. Never let pets or people into your growroom, and also make it a habit to shower and change clothes before going into the room if you were recently outdoors. If you have houseplants, be sure they're never kept in the same room as your grow and wash your hands after coming into contact with them.

Be sure to always inspect leaves and their undersides every week for pests; this way, if they do happen to intrude, you'll be ready for them with natural pest remedies. There are plenty of ways to eradicate pests naturally without having to use chemical insecticides. One good way is to use a spray application of neem oil and water weekly until the mites are gone, or else a mixture of two tablespoons of hot-pepper sauce with a few drops of Ivory soap in a quart of water (also applied weekly). Or you can find 100% natural sprays with ingredients like pyrethrum that will also work well for pests.

For soft-bodied insects like thrips, you can use a product called Monterey Garden Insect Spray, which is listed with OMRI (the Organic Materials Review Institute) and includes the 100% natural ingredient Spinosad, a relatively new insecticide that was discovered from soil in an abandoned rum distillery in 1982. The pest dies within one to two days after ingesting its active ingredient, which is safely broken down by light and soil microbes into carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen. Spinosad controls not only thrips, but also caterpillars, beetles, leaf miners and more.

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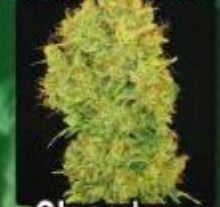
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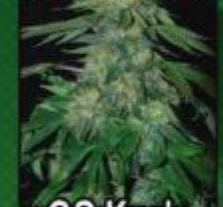
Flower Power

DNA Genetics



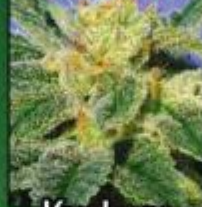
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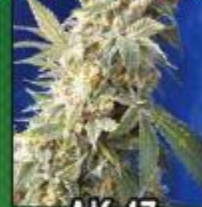
OG Kush

TH Seeds



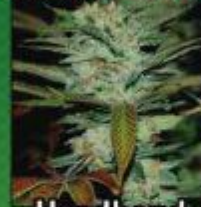
Kushage

Serious Seeds

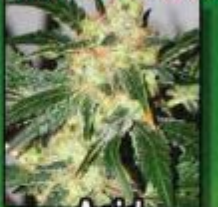


AK-47

Reserva Privada Paradise Seeds



Headband



Acid

Holy Smoke



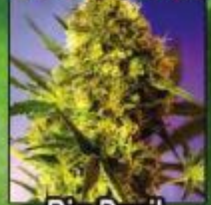
Strawberry Diesel

Secret Valley



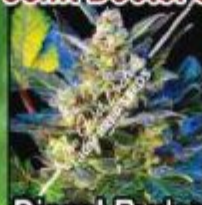
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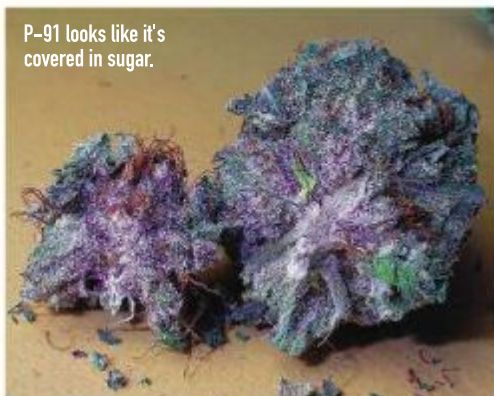
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P-91 looks like it's covered in sugar.



A group shot of various colas post harvest.



Roots flourish in living soil.



Behold the complexities of properly grown cannabis.

Growing connoisseur-quality buds organically is simply a matter of making a few different choices to create an environment for your plants to thrive in, even in a small closet.

Myco= Fungus, Rhiza= Root

Mycorrhizae work via the symbiotic association between a beneficial fungus and a plant's roots, meaning the fungus and its plant host survive by mutually benefiting each other. Mycorrhizae naturally form a friendly relationship with the roots of most plant species found on our planet; they're a very important part of soil life and soil chemistry, increasing the surface area of a plant's roots anywhere from 10 to 100 times and significantly improving its health.

This beneficial microherd literally grows on the plant's roots, receiving a constant supply of carbohydrates like glucose and sucrose made by the plant. In return, the plant receives the benefit of the fungi's ability to absorb water and break down mineral nutrients. Mycorrhizae increase the plant's ability to resist diseases and pests as well as drought. Plants grown in sterilized soils containing no mycorrhizae often experience poor growth and lower yields.

There are some 100% organic soil mixes that contain beneficial microbes, such as the FoxFarm Happy Frog Potting Soil and Original Planting Mix used here. Another option is watering the soil with mycorrhizal powder before planting or adding granules when mixing the soil. Any of these options are an excellent way to start your microherd.

Carbo Boost

Using blackstrap molasses in the last four to six weeks of flowering is an excellent way to increase your plants' nutrient uptake, thereby boosting their growth and potential yields. Blackstrap molasses is a significant source of carbohydrates, magnesium, potassium, calcium and iron, all of which act as a superfood to the beneficial microbes in your mix, thereby supercharging plant growth and increasing resin production.

Use blackstrap molasses at the rate of 1 teaspoon per gallon with every other watering and be sure it's mixed thoroughly before use. Also

make sure that you specifically use *blackstrap* molasses, which contains the essential amounts of beneficial nutrients and minerals (using regular molasses is *not* recommended because of its poor mineral content). Also be sure to choose "unsulphured" molasses so that you don't damage either the plants' roots or the microherd. Blackstrap molasses also works as a chelating agent, binding nutrients and making them highly accessible to your plants.

Tips for Organic Success

Use only fully organic nutrients and soils to keep your plants pure and natural.

Use at least a 10% perlite in your mix to keep it less dense and improve drainage.

Anytime you water your plants, make sure the water has been sitting out for at least 24 hours prior to use, or has been oxygenated with an air pump and air stone for at least 24 hours, to prevent the chlorine found in tap water from damaging roots and beneficial microbes.

Use diluted and half-doses of organic nutrients, and feed every other watering to make sure that overfertilization isn't an issue.

Conclusion

Growing connoisseur-quality buds organically is simply a matter of making a few different choices to create an environment for your plants to thrive in, even indoors or within a small closet. Keeping your plants purely organic will let you reap the maximum benefits from them, and it's also healthier for you—just like organic foods. Give your plants the things they'd get from nature and they will give you something very special in return! ✨

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A large indoor cannabis grow room with rows of plants under a white netting system. The plants are lush green with many buds. The room is filled with rows of plants, and the netting is supported by vertical poles. The lighting is bright, and the overall atmosphere is one of a professional cultivation facility.

GROWIN' IN THE 'DAM

STORY & PHOTOS BY NICO ESCONDIDO

Every summer for the past three years, **HIGH TIMES** has sent me to Amsterdam to survey the goods and get a preview of what the entries for that year's **HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup** (held each November) might look like. Sure, it's a bit of a shameless plug for our annual event, but there are some definite perks to getting that scoop. (I mean, who doesn't want to know who's entering what new strains each year?) Still, this year, rather than write up a multi-part Cup series, we decided that we'd also add a feature about the grow scene in Amsterdam, as it's been a while since we covered cultivation in the Holy Land.

A large indoor grow room filled with rows of cannabis plants. The plants are densely packed and appear to be in the flowering stage, with some showing white trichomes. The room is illuminated by bright, overhead lights, and the walls are covered in reflective material. A large black duct is visible on the right side of the room.

This beautiful room belonging to the legendary Amsterdam grower known as Bear, was filled with the Casey Jones strain.

SOME BACKGROUND

What we found across the pond wasn't as shocking as it once might have been. That's probably because most of that grow knowledge (and, of course, forward political thinking) has finally matriculated throughout Europe and over to North (and even South) America.

Looking back, the Dutch are primarily responsible for early advents in nearly all indoor-grow theory. Their use of automated hydroponic systems, strong nutrient programs and advanced grow mediums such as rockwool and clay aggregates helped revolutionize indoor growing. However, when it comes to space and gardens, Amsterdam is hardly different these days from the indoor scene in our urban centers such as New York, Boston and Miami (sorry, West Coasters, you guys blow it up way too big to be put in this lot).

Still, while not a whole lot has changed, the growrooms in Holland are progressing, having become tighter, better yielding and higher quality since our first forays into their indoor-grow world. Some of this can be attributed to the influx of new and better genetics over the past 20 years, but some of it is due to tenacity, technology and the good old-fashioned green thumb that the Dutch seem to naturally possess (just check out their tulip fields).

Trellising turns SOG into ScrOG and gives plants much needed support indoors.



AT FIRST GLANCE

There are a lot of words that come to mind when thinking about cannabis cultivation in Amsterdam: *stealthy*, *simple* and “*sea of green*” (SOG) are a few key notions. Amsterdam is a medium- to large-sized city, and even with all its beautiful canals and old-world charm, it’s still an urban center. Even on the fringes of the city, where flower fields, dairy farms and windmills prevail, growing marijuana isn’t done out in the open, as many think. This means that space is a consideration just as it is here, and keeping grow operations hidden is very important.

While the consequences for getting caught are still less than in most areas of the US, that balance is slowly shifting, and growers in Holland know that they will—at the very least—lose their entire setup if they are detected. Thus, many growrooms look very similar to those found in cities in America and across the world. The Dutch have perfected the indoor techniques that are commonly found throughout Europe and North America.

One can get a good sense of a grower’s aptitude simply by inspecting his grow medium. Certain mediums require advanced knowledge and loads of experience to work with. Rockwool is at the top on the list when it comes to finicky mediums, but it’s the top pick for most growers in Amsterdam. This is due to the fact that the Dutch prefer to use the SOG technique, which almost goes hand in hand with hydroponic setups. A newer advance in this technique adds netting or wide-holed screening to upgrade to a so-called “screen of green” (ScrOG). Here, the netting helps to separate the branches for smarter light usage and better penetration. The netting also adds additional support to burgeoning colas during flowering.

The netting has another added benefit: Tight spaces and small rooms that utilize a packed SOG technique often become very difficult for growers to navigate. Getting into these gardens to stake up plants as they continue through their flowering cycle may become nearly impossible. Having the netting up and in place from the start of flowering onward prevents headaches as well as the need to remove plants to get better access to the garden, and it also prevents the tragedy of crushing one’s precious plants.

TECHNOLOGY

Aside from new genetics, the latest boom in cultivation in Amsterdam comes from technological advancements within the industry. While this is really a facet of cannabis cultivation that has touched growers across the globe, it’s particularly interesting to see in Amsterdam, which has always been at the forefront when it comes to cutting-edge grow-room technology.

What’s most interesting to see in Amsterdam is how the growers here maintain the philosophy of keeping things simple, which in the end really negates a lot of the new products and technology we see on the market these days. For instance, when it comes to lighting, you won’t see any experimental LEDs or row after row of air-cooled lamps. In fact, in some regards Dutch growers seem to be ahead of the curve and able to weed out the gimmicky theory by relying on their tried-and-true common sense.

Here in North America, we commonly air-cool lamps because that’s what we are told to do. Reflector hoods come standard with flanges ready to be connected to each other via ducting and cooled by inline fans that blow or suck heat byproduct out of the grow-room. However, when daisy-chaining multiple lamps and putting them all on one or two air-cooling circuits, growers are really pushing heat toward one spot: the lamp at the end of the line, which collects all the other lamps’ heat before exhausting it away. The lamps at the end of these air-cooled chains end up either burning out completely or running at two-thirds or half strength before the completion of the first crop, causing growers to either have to replace bulbs much more frequently or suffer weaker yields from the plants near the edges of their gardens.

Another advanced component of marijuana growing in Amsterdam involves atmospheric control and the technologies deployed to aid growers in this area. Fine-tuning everything from temperature to humidity to carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels can mean the difference between a mediocre crop and top-quality buds. These days, there’s a large selection of controllers, timers and other gadgets designed for these exact purposes. Some of them act as master controllers and allow growers to precisely monitor all levels of the growroom atmosphere, while other controllers are specialized, tailored to a specific growroom condition. Most of these products can be found in grow shops or online and at fair market prices—however, be sure to read reviews and feedback before purchasing this type of equipment, as some manufacturers are known to produce inferior products.

Some of the most common atmospheric controllers in use in Amsterdam (and pretty much anywhere else you find a well-run growroom) include products from Custom Automated Products (CAP), Autogrow Systems, Sentinel Control Systems and Plug ‘N’ Grow. Each company has variations on the same theme, offering digital or knob controls and varying compatibilities and connection capabilities.

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The Dutch Ministry of Cannabis

To talk about growing cannabis in Amsterdam without discussing Holland's liberal attitude toward the practice—or the fact that the Dutch government sanctions and even participates in it—would be an injustice. In fact, *HIGH TIMES* was lucky enough to be asked on a tour of Holland's government-licensed medical-marijuana factory, situated just a few hours southeast of Amsterdam.



Bedrocan, the Dutch government's medical-marijuana laboratory, is an impressive warehouse-sized space that has been in operation for over 30 years. The facility is of intelligent design and immaculately kept, as the growers here practice sterile methods throughout. With so much experience, the entire facility can be turnkey-operated, meaning that everything is automated to the point that a substitute employee can walk in and follow the laminated directions on the wall of each room to keep everything running (and growing) smoothly without ever having been there before. This is bureaucratic growing for sure.

The charge of Bedrocan is to supply all of the medically licensed patients of the Netherlands with their medicine. This equates to roughly 300 kilos a year, according to its contract with the Dutch government. While this may not seem like a large quantity, when one considers both the size of the country and the fact that patients can still get their medicine from one of thousands of regular coffeeshops throughout the country, those numbers become more understandable. The medicine that Bedrocan produces, however, cannot be bought in any coffeeshop and must be picked up directly at pharmacies by registered patients.

The bud that Bedrocan grows is an old-school Super Silver Haze that the growers here refer to as the Original Jack Herer. These genetics came from Nevil himself and were originally known as the A-5 Haze. Still, Bedrocan, keeping up with the times, is trying out some new genetics and searching for lines that possess high levels of cannabidiol (CBD), a cannabinoid that has been shown to possess excellent medicinal properties in clinical tests. Bedrocan has all of its cannabis sent out to other high-tech labs where it can be tested to get a total breakdown of all cannabinoid levels. On

HYDROPONICS

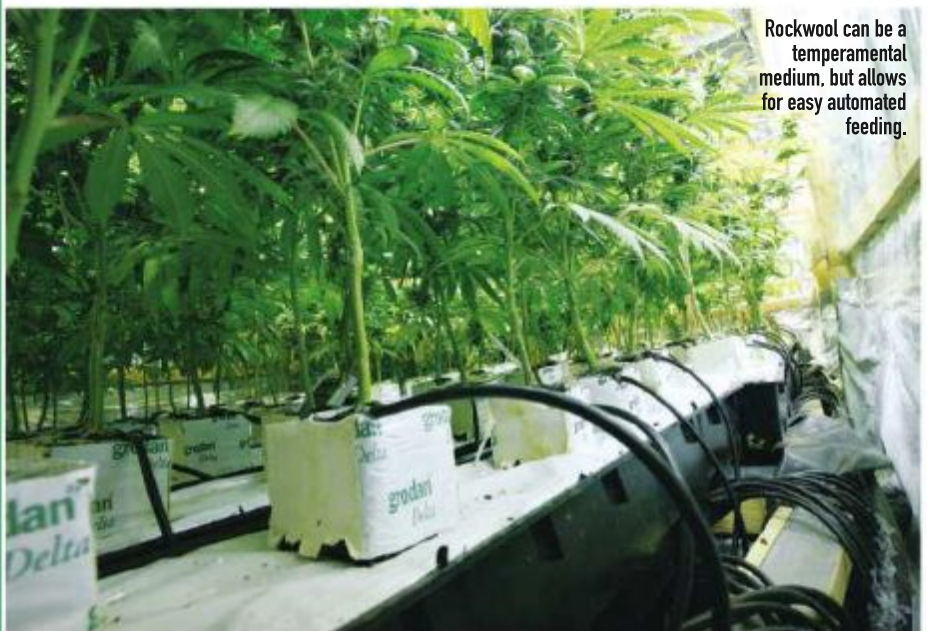
Indoor growing is particularly suited to the use of hydroponics. For those unfamiliar with the concept, hydroponics has become a general term for growing in any soilless medium in which the root systems are regularly inundated with nutrient solution. However, today there are lots of artificial soils, or soilless mixes, that are peat- or sphagnum-based and very popular among hydro growers.

While there are a plethora of hydroponic grow mediums—clay aggregates, coco fiber and lava rock, just to name a few—the most commonly used hydroponic medium in Amsterdam is still rockwool. And the Dutch—most of whom are advanced growers—have become masters at using this fibrous material. Synthetically produced and spun out of fibers from natural minerals such as stone, the medium is

usually used in trays for germinating seeds or starting clones.

The first and perhaps most important rule when using rockwool is never to use it in a system that has catch saucers beneath the pots or plant beds. The idea here is not to let rockwool mediums reabsorb the sitting water that has already passed through the grow medium. Allowing rockwool to reabsorb nutrient solution can raise the pH of the medium two to three points in just a matter of a few short days. A pH of 5.5 to 6.0 is ideal when using rockwool, and it's important that growers measure the pH of the rockwool runoff as well as the ppm (parts per million) every day. Even the slightest fluctuations can severely affect plant health and yields and lead to even worse consequences.

Because of rockwool's sterile and porous nature as well as its neutral pH lev-



Rockwool can be a temperamental medium, but allows for easy automated feeding.

a thick, wool-like material that is fairly porous and excellent at retaining moisture.

However, rockwool isn't always the best match for the beginner grower, as it has certain nuances that require close attention. While rockwool, or mineral wools, are often chosen for their ability to hold water for longer periods of time and release H₂O molecules to roots much more easily than do soil particles, rockwool can still cause large fluctuations in pH levels and may also lend itself more to nutrient lock-up than would better-buffering materials such as artificial soils.

Rockwool comes in a variety of forms. There is bulk rockwool, which can come as small, crouton-shaped pellets, and there is free-form spun wool that is dense and fibrous. These forms can be used to fill pots, but they can also get severely matted down under the stress of water weight. Then there are rockwool cubes, blocks and slabs: These can grow and support plants directly and are used in a wide array of hydroponic systems, as they maintain their form and integrity fairly well. Lastly, there are rockwool plugs,

els at the time of manufacturing, it doesn't offer the same level of buffering against nutrients that heavier mediums (like an artificial soil) do. Buffering helps prevent plants from getting nutrient burn by creating layers of particles between sensitive root tips and the incoming nutrient solution, allowing root systems to absorb their foods slowly from the medium as the plants need them.

Another concern that needs to be navigated is the buildup of salts from nutrients within the rockwool. Dutch growers have learned that less is more when it comes to nutrient solutions, and they are very careful not to overfeed their gardens. Regularly flushing gardens, or feeding them only with fresh water, is a necessary part of working with rockwool gardens, as is changing out the water in the reservoirs twice a week. At least once a week, growers should flush their gardens to prevent salt buildup that will in turn cause nutrient lock-up at the root level. This happens as minerals from the nutrients clump together, which end up changing the different electrical charges (on the molecular level) that are necessary for the uptake of nutrients by the roots.

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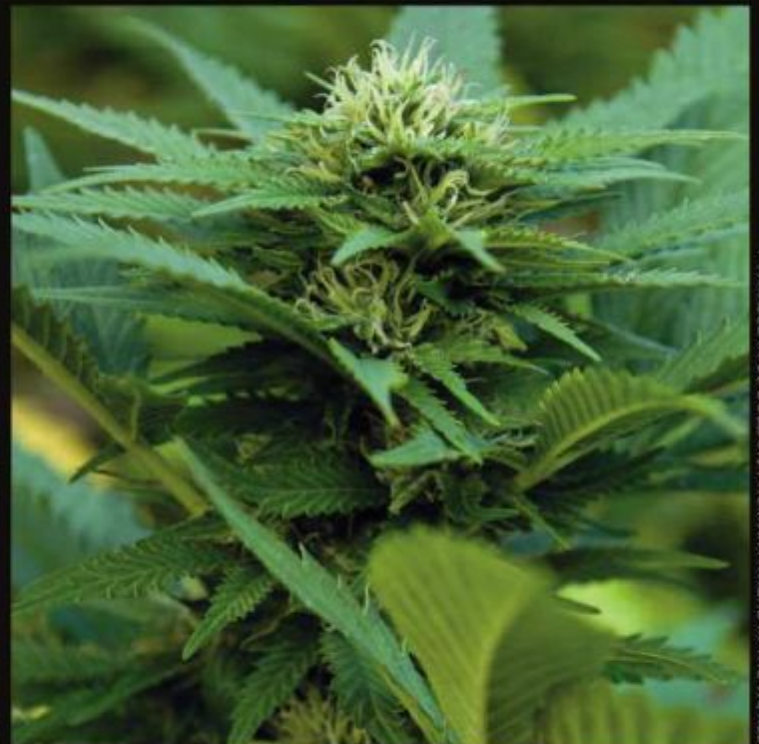
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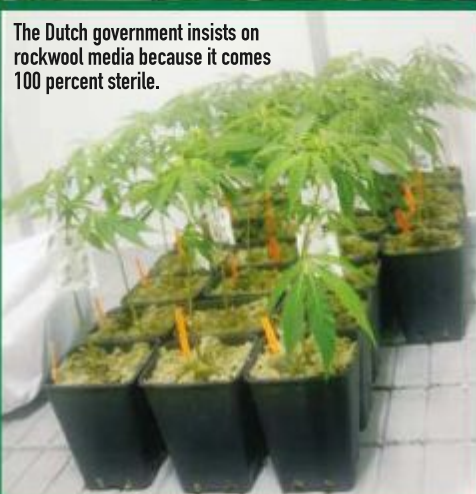
top of that, these labs also test to make sure that no molds or contaminants exist in the medicine, and Bedrocan uses various forms of radiation to treat and sterilize the buds before the packaging phase.

Ironically enough, some of the cultivation methods deployed at Bedrocan fly in the face of today's best cultivation theory. However, with decades of recorded data, Bedrocan is confident that its methods are optimal for achieving its given task. Perhaps the biggest oddity came inside the flowering rooms, where lamps were affixed to the ceiling and remain stationary—30 feet above the garden canopy. Another interesting facet of the growing here is that none of the plants are topped or super-cropped, instead growing straight up to single-top colas. The plants are grown out of small (1-gallon) containers filled with spun rockwool. But the plants grow so tall that the container pots must be attached to the concrete floors and the plants staked to large poles to help support them. The containers are lifted off the floors with mats to keep the root systems from getting too cold during the winter months. All in all, the flowering rooms are a bit startling at first glance, but it's hard to argue with their rate of success.

Still, for all the misgivings one may have about Bedrocan's cultivation techniques, there were quite a few impressive facets to the work it does. The factory itself, nestled among endless miles of farms, looks more like a warehouse from the outside than a laboratory. Once inside the facility, it is quickly apparent that this place is one big machine, turning out buds on a consistent schedule without ever missing a beat. The interior is divided into offices, vegetative rooms, flowering rooms, trimming areas and drying rooms. Before entering any of the grow areas, you must be outfitted with sterile lab garments, including booties placed over your shoes. Inside the main cultivation area, huge HVAC systems line the walls, along with control boxes that monitor and precisely adjust all of the atmospheric conditions, everything from humidity to temperature.

Four main rooms comprise the grow-

The Dutch government insists on rockwool media because it comes 100 percent sterile.



rooms—one vegetative and three flowering rooms. The rooms are staggered so that one is just starting to bloom while another is ready to harvest, and everything runs on a well-planned schedule. Outside the flowering rooms, huge vats sit filled with purified water waiting to be mixed with nutrients, then tested by meters (pH, ppm and EC), and finally distributed to the thirsty plants inside via pumps and spaghetti lines. Each room is also fitted with controllable vent fans and larger watering hoses (more likely to be used for cleaning than feeding).

When the plants are harvested, the wives and daughters of the local farmers are hired to come in and trim. Every element of this process is stringently controlled, with employees entering through a clean room and being passed their work through windows in the wall. The women trim the buds *by hand* (no scissors or trim equipment is used), and once the buds are perfectly manicured, they're passed through another window where a Bedrocan official takes the inventory, logs it in and then stores it in a walk-in vault. As you can see, these guys really don't mess around.

But the most impressive part? Well, that's easy: the bud itself. For all of the time invested, the system certainly pays off, because the herb lives up to its claim—it's medicinal and makes people feel much better. If there's one thing the Dutch can do, it's grow good marijuana. ✨

GENETICS

Amsterdam has always been known as the global crossroads of the genetics trade. How could it not be? With decades of liberal-minded marijuana laws attracting growers, breeders, importers and connoisseurs of all sorts from every corner of the world, Amsterdam is a hub of seed proliferation. On top of that, the godfather of all cannabis breeders, the man known simply as Nevil, started one of the first-ever seed companies (the Seed Bank) using a Dutch government grant aimed at providing medical cannabis to patients with various ailments.

In recent years, Amsterdam has had a somewhat controversial reputation when it comes to genetics. Since the city is home to scores of seed companies, the competition to develop new varieties here is fierce. Besides tons of allegations regarding the theft and sale of other companies' seeds, there are ethical questions about hybridizing strains in order to create seeds for genetics that are clone-only (meaning no males exist to pollinate a female and make pure seeds of that strain). An extension of this problem ties into the debate over feminized seeds as well. Multiple processes exist both to create feminized seeds and to "self" a plant (i.e., to turn a female into a hermaphrodite when no male exists in order to create pure or non-hybridized seeds of that strain). However, these processes are controversial in and of themselves, as they often require unnatural procedures and sometimes the use of unhealthy chemicals. On top of that, many argue that such processes dilute gene pools, while hybridization projects for the sake of making and selling seeds mutate genetics that were once prized lines.

Today, the seed trade in Amsterdam has been revitalized, in a way, by the influx of new genetics brought to Holland by immigrant growers seeking to capitalize on the world-famous weed game of Amsterdam. Unfortunately, this influx has also coincided with a conservative political movement in Amsterdam that has produced a backlash against the cannabis industry, curtailing what was once a lucrative business just a few short years ago. Still, new strains are popping up all over Amsterdam at an alarming rate, causing many to speculate about their origins and validity. Big seed companies claim to be combing the planet in search of lost landrace genetics, while smaller, new-to-the-scene growers claim to be bringing the best strains from their homelands.

On the positive side, the new genetics in Amsterdam are, in fact, of high quality. Savvy growers have been able to create excellent genetic preserves, creating an opportunity to mix old-school Amsterdam gems with newer varieties from all over the world. The fact that a lot of Amsterdam growing is urban and done indoors means that many growers use hydroponic setups and mediums that are best suited for clones rather than seeds. While, on the surface, this may seem detrimental to seed production, it creates the need for preserves and nurseries that keep mother plants in abundance for cloning purposes. This opens the door for growers who would otherwise never think about breeding to tinker around and start creating new crosses of their own. The outcome is that Amsterdam is still—at least for the time being—the place to go for seeds and diverse genetics. ✨



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Photo shows 21 days from start

Some might say that you can't buy class.
They've obviously never owned one of these.

The new Latch-Top 420 Jars from 420 Science are simply the best storage option available for someone looking to keep their quality buds fresh. Made of Italian Borosilicate glass, these jars feature a finely-crafted pewter medallion. The latch-top lid and O-Ring combo provide a hermetic seal that is guaranteed to lock in the freshness.



Autumn Photo: Scott David Proulx



420 Science
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HIGH TIMES' first-ever Medical Cannabis Cup brings the ultimate marijuana competition to Northern California.



Vaporize it (and don't criticize it).

Patients sample several varieties of cannabis concentrate to find their favorites.



Joint relief.

san francisco



Greenway Compassionate Relief's Cup-winning biscotti.

Legend has it that ever since all-American home-grown marijuana first started taking root in Northern California over 40 years ago, the region's most highly skilled cannabis cultivators and breeders have emerged from their gardens once a year in order to compete in underground harvest contests and determine who really grows the best bud around. Since 1987, we've been exporting this tradition to the one place on Earth pot-friendly enough to host the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup in all its ganja glory, annually pitting Amsterdam's finest coffeeshops against one another as part of a now-global phenomenon that attracts stoners of every nation to the city of their nice dreams for the world's premier pot party.

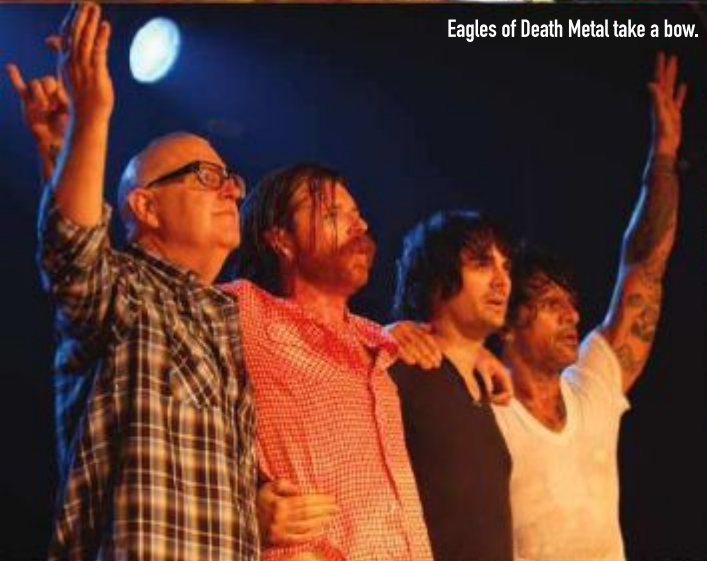
That unparalleled event will always remain the Acapulco Gold standard of marijuana competi-

tions—including the 23rd annual incarnation of the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup taking place this November. But given all the freedom enjoyed these days by California's legal medical-cannabis patients—let alone the plethora of choices they face when selecting their medicine from state-sanctioned dispensaries and collectives—we finally decided that the time was ripe to return the concept to its home turf.

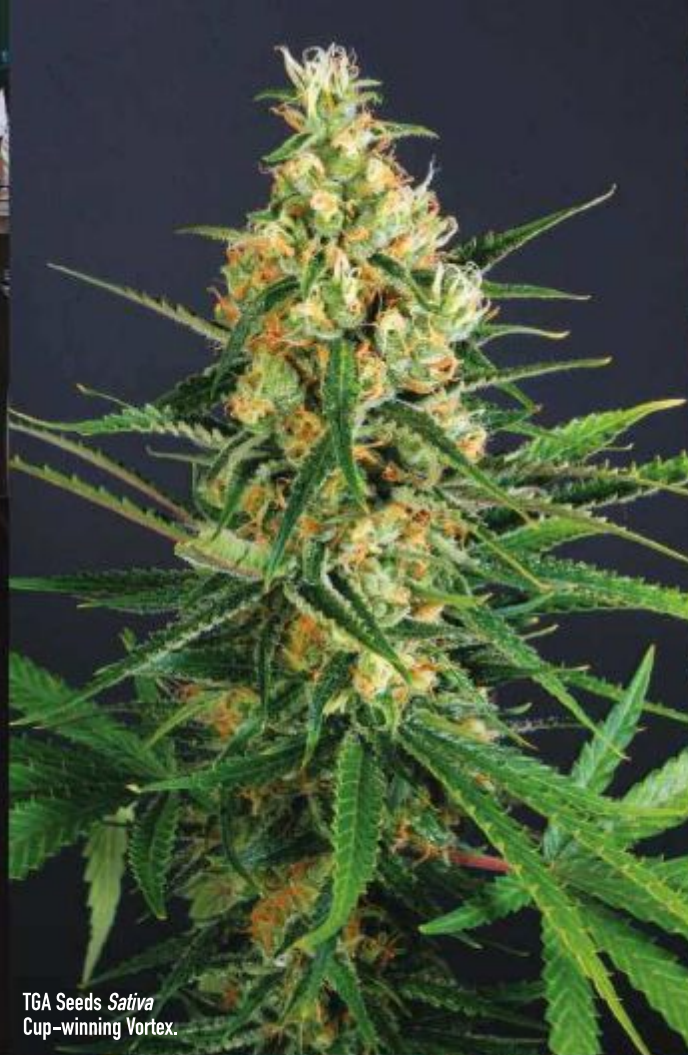
Focusing on the needs of California's estimated 150,000 med-pot patients, the First Annual HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in San Francisco featured a two-day cannabis and hemp expo that included cultivation seminars with HIGH TIMES editors Jorge Cervantes, Danny Danko and Nico Escondido; activism and legal sessions with leaders of the medical-marijuana movement and



The HIGH TIMES booth crew



Eagles of Death Metal take a bow.



TGA Seeds *Sativa* Cup-winning Vortex.



Head judge Jorge Cervantes, signing his book.



Colorado's Cheesecake Lady!



Sun'n'buds brought out the stoner girls.



Humboldt Patients Resource Clinic in action.



Miss HT 2007 finalist Jacque and HT reporter Bianca Barnhill.

treat

By David Bienenstock

major cannabis celebrities; seminars on how to open and operate your very own cannabusiness; information on the latest advances in marijuana-based medicine; an all-star Medical Cannabis Cup awards ceremony; and an unforgettable Saturday-night party that featured Lyrics Born, Eagles of Death Metal and other surprise musical guests.

Perhaps most importantly, we convened a handpicked panel of experts and tasked them with awarding prizes for the best and most medicinal *indicas*, *sativas*, concentrates and edibles entered by more than 50 of California's legally operating medical-marijuana dispensaries and collectives. In each category, we paired a local legend with one of HIGH TIMES' staff experts, while selecting *Marijuana Horticulture* author Jorge Cervantes to serve as head judge across the board.



Kenny Estes — the original Granddaddy Purp.

Dozens of jars awaiting *Indica* Cup judges.

Miss HT 2007 Sarah Newton.



HT Cultivation Editor Nico Escondido.



Danny Danko and Valerie Corral examining *sativas*.



Coded samples await Medical Cannabis Cup judges.



Nor Cal girls are hip!



Legal seminar (L to R): Keith Stroup, Chris Conrad, William Panzer, Robert Platshorn.

After receiving their samples a week in advance of the Cup—all carefully coded as part of our blind tasting process—the judges were asked to meet at Dennis Peron’s “Bud and Breakfast” (also known as the Castro Castle) the day before the expo began, and to bring with them a short list of their favorite entries for careful consideration by the full panel. At precisely 4:20 p.m., this illustrious group finally assembled at perhaps the greenest spot in all of San Francisco.

One of the co-authors of California’s groundbreaking voter initiative, Proposition 215—which, upon its passage in 1996, created the first statewide protections for medical-marijuana patients in the country—Dennis Peron has remained a consistent voice in the marijuana movement ever since, and his cannabis-friendly abode served as the ideal setting for our official judges’ dinner. And so, after many long days and nights of rigorous, independent testing, our two sets of experts finally met each other face to face to share hors d’oeuvres, light refreshments and their highly informed opinions on nearly 100 distinct varieties of cannabis medicine.

Fortunately, no single person had to judge it all. WAMM executive director Valerie Corral evaluated the *sativas*, cannabis-breeding legend

DJ Short handled the *indicas*, certified marijuana experts Chris Conrad and Mikki Norris examined the concentrates, and Chef Mike, the resident medical-marijuana chef on the *Cannabis Planet* TV show, put his well-seasoned pot palate to work on the marijuana-infused edibles.

As these judges paired off with their HIGH TIMES counterparts, literally comparing notes while debating the relative merits of each entry under consideration, Cervantes took his job as head judge extremely seriously, moving from concentrates to *sativas* to *indicas* and occasionally offering his own thoughts, while consistently helping each group move closer to consensus. Ultimately, the edibles judges (including HIGH TIMES managing editor Natasha Lewin) would unanimously agree on the biscotti from Greenway Compassionate Relief as their clear winner, and the concentrates would be decided in favor of Ingrid from the Leonard Moore Cooperative. Meanwhile, the *sativa* and *indica* judges (dealing with 34 and 42 total entries, respectively) opted for presenting

Jorge with a Top 5 list and letting him sort out the rest at his leisure over the next two days.

And so, while Jorge sequestered himself in HIGH TIMES’ temporary headquarters with the 10 best strains in the state, the show went on at an expo center called Terra on the outskirts of town. With more than 100 vendors and informational booths, a non-stop lineup of panels and seminars, plus a large outdoor area dedicated to Prop. 215-compliant patients, the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup drew huge crowds and attracted a veritable Who’s Who of the medical-marijuana movement, including Steve DeAngelo from the Harborside Health Center; Debby Goldsberry from the Berkeley Patients Group; Keith Stroup, Paul Armentano and “Radical Russ” from NORML; federal medical-marijuana patient Irv Rosenfeld; Prop. 215 co-author William Panzer; medical-cannabis pioneer Dr. Frank Lucido; legendary ex-smuggler Robert “Black Tuna” Platshorn; the newly installed head of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Aaron Houston; and representatives from both Americans for Safe Access and the upcoming California legalization initiative (see page 76).

By Sunday night, when the smoke had (largely) cleared, a standing-room-only crowd assembled to witness the presentation of the first-ever Medical Cannabis Cups. With all of the expert judges on hand to announce their final decisions, tensions ran

By Sunday night, when the smoke had (largely) cleared, a standing-room-only crowd assembled to witness the presentation of HIGH TIMES’ first-ever Medical Cannabis Cups.

high as months of preparation, a week of careful testing and two days of Medical Cannabis Cup history all finally came to a head. But before handing out the Cups, we paused to present a very special Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Lester Grinspoon for his long and highly distinguished career as a physician, professor, author, advocate and activist.

Although Dr. Grinspoon unfortunately couldn’t attend for health reasons, the 82-year-old elder statesman of this still-emerging movement addressed the crowd via a taped acceptance speech. In it, Dr. Grinspoon marveled at the progress that California has made in leading the country toward the ever-greater acceptance of medical marijuana and shared his hope that he would see outright legalization happening in his own lifetime. And, after spending the weekend at a public celebration of this once brutally repressed plant—held not in Amsterdam, but in our own country—everyone present had to agree that anything seemed possible, in the best possible way. ✨



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Sean Kush: as featured in the June 6, 2010 L.A Times.



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Cali Gold



Indica Cup

1st Place: Cali Gold
(Mr. Natural Inc.)

THC: 18.39% / CBD: 0.43% / CBN: 0.88%
This all-organic, naturally grown super-hybrid took home first place in the very first HT *Indica* Cup on US soil, and deservedly so. A cross of OG Kush and Colombian Gold, Cali Gold carries the exceptional flavor and beautiful aroma of the OG, receiving a near-perfect score in these categories from the judges. The burn was above average and, under the loupe, Cali Gold exhibited nice trichome production and also scored high in the newly coined ROO category, a method of evaluation based on the ring of oil (hence, "ROO") that forms near the lit end of joints made from high-potency cannabis. Cali Gold's high ROO rating was later verified by the stunning lab reports that revealed it to be 18.4 percent THC!

Vortex



Sativa Cup

1st Place: Vortex
(Green Bicycles)

THC: 18.19% / CBD: 0.47% / CBN: 0.93%
This extraordinarily grown version of the TGA/Subcool Seeds strain, cultivated from seed by Green Bicycles, was "Clean Green Certified," meaning it was grown in compliance with the USDA's Organic Certification Program and other international guidelines for sustainable farming.

Obviously, the growers of this fine herb knew what they were doing, as our judges' notes indicate that it was well flushed and cured, burning to a clean white ash. Further proof that the cure was dead-on came in the form of the super-high CBN count, which can indicate the bud's age and shows that an herb wasn't rushed through the curing process. CBN is also an important medicinal cannabinoid.

A hybrid project geared specifically for the medical user created this strain, with its lineage coming by way of an Apollo 13 x Space Queen. As HIGH TIMES senior cultivation editor and *sativa* judge Danny Danko noted: "This is a true *sativa* in every way—tastes like Amsterdam, with a clear, bell-like high." And let's not forget her sweet flavor as well!

True OG



2nd Place: True OG
(Elemental Wellness)

THC: 15.19% / CBD: 0.31% / CBN: 0.65%
Strongly reminiscent of the Chemdog line (perhaps an OG #18), the True OG was an immediate Top 10 selection in the first round of sampling (out of some 40 *indicas*). Her hard, dense, well-cured nugs stood out, as did the pungent nose. Both her bouquet and taste earned bonus points with the judges, who frequently commented on this bud's ability to keep great flavor right through the end of the smoke. Lab results confirmed above-average potency and good medicinal value with 0.31 percent CBD. Grown indoors and hydroponically, the True OG responded as most OG varieties do in strong grow and nutrient programs—with their true potential fully unlocked!

Candy Jack



2nd Place: Candy Jack
(Green Door San Francisco)

THC: 15.98% / CBD: 0.29% / CBN: 0.88%
A tasty and pungent version of the Jack Herer line (a.k.a. Super Silver Haze), it's no wonder that this bud placed second in the *Sativa* Cup. Flavorful and with that signature sweet smell that gets the mouth watering, this Candy Jack burned very well and carried a mellow smoke with a strong high. Judges noted the quality of the entry buds: large and well-manicured colas, dense with light green leaves and lots of red hairs. HIGH TIMES staffers found this entry reminiscent of the Super Silver Haze/Jack Herer strain that was a two-time Cup champion in Amsterdam in the late '90s—only this version was a cut above!

Bubba Kush



3rd Place: Bubba Kush
(Tehema Herbal Collective Inc.)

THC: 13.55% / CBD: 0.25% / CBN: 0.24%
Indica judge and legendary breeder DJ Short had this entry high on his list of favorites, and with good reason. Receiving excellent marks across the board, this Bubba Kush was very well grown, producing airy yet dense nuggets that had a piney, sage-like nose. When ground up, the bud produced an even more floral aroma as well as loads of powdery kief—undoubtedly a byproduct of the high resin content, which was clearly visible to the naked eye (and under the scope). But the crowning achievement of this bud was its impeccable cure, which not only created a perfect burn and smoke but a beautiful stone as well.

Durban Poison



3rd Place: Durban Poison
(Purple Lotus Patient Center)

THC: 17.06% / CBD: 0.36% / CBN: 0.89%
It was nice to see a Durban place in the *Sativa* Cup, as she is generally regarded as one of the few pure landrace *sativas* left on Earth. This variety, entered as Durban Poison (with a possible tinge of *indica* in her from earlier crossings), was still one of the most *sativa*-dominant herbs out of over 30 *sativa* entries. With a sweet and spicy flavor and a high that sent the heart racing, she exhibited strong influence over the judges, all of whom had her on their Top 5 lists. This version of Durban Poison also burned extremely well and had a very nice cure. With cannabinoid levels this high, it was no surprise that she turned out a winner.

CANDY JACK

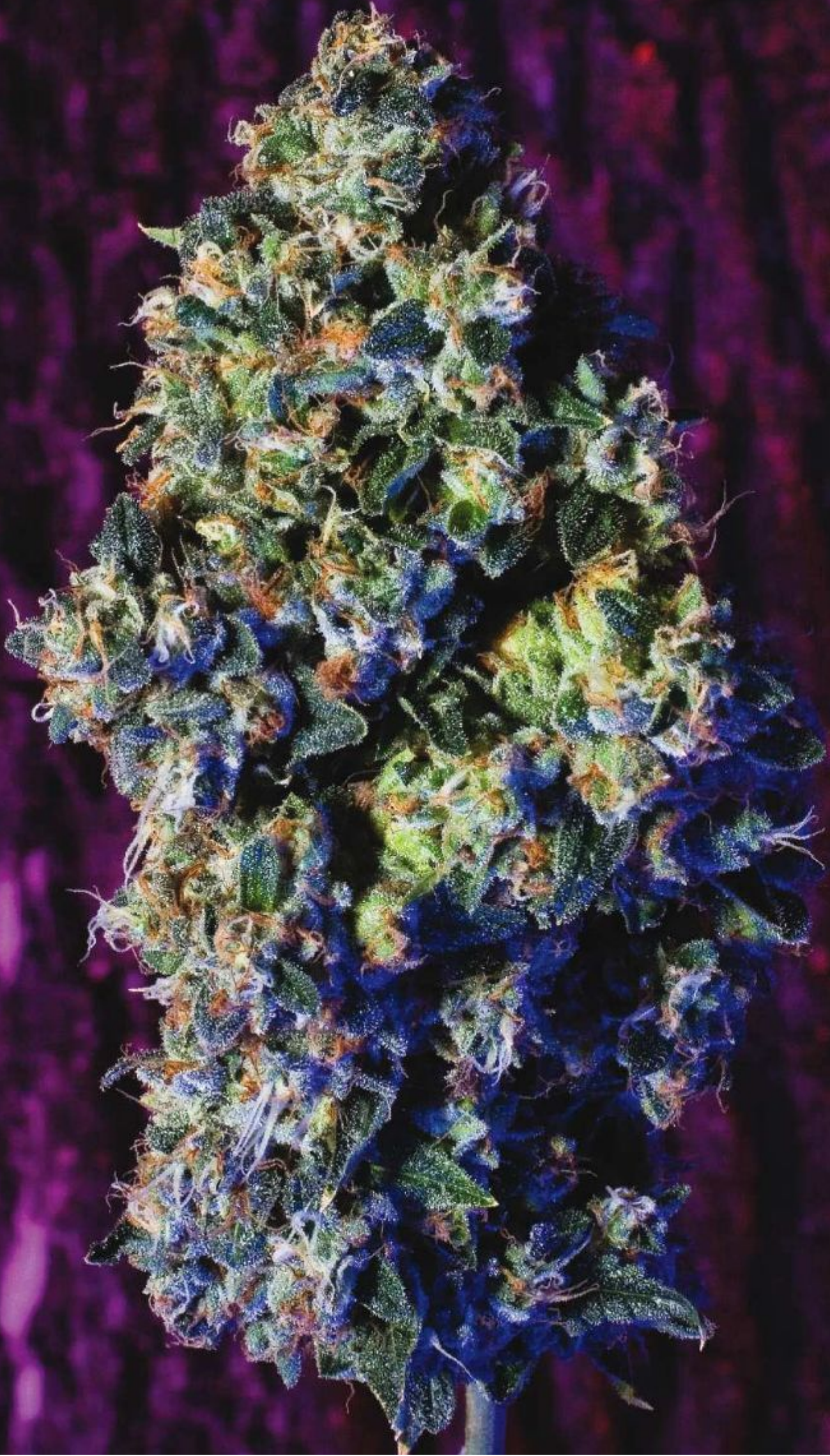


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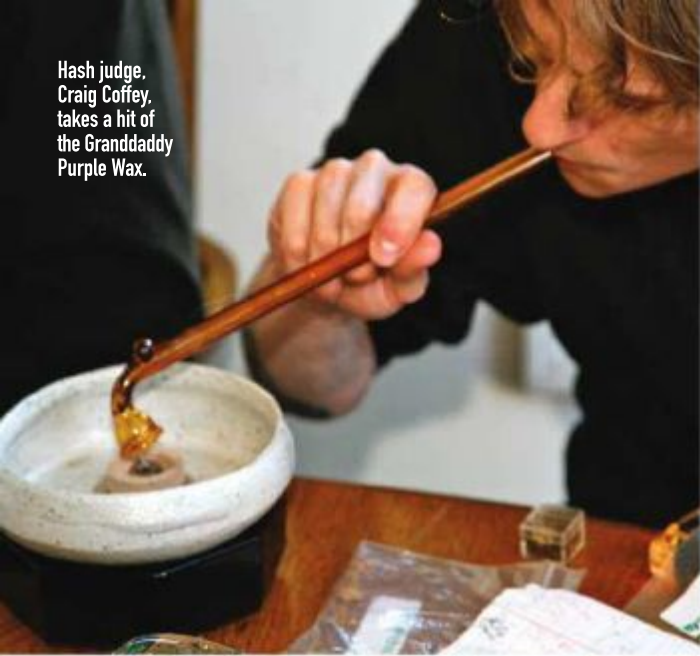
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Hash judge, Craig Coffey, takes a hit of the Granddaddy Purple Wax.



A hookah coal was employed for the final session of concentrate judging.



Full Melt

By Craig Coffey

Head judge, Jorge Cervantes, observes a burning hash sample.



If growing great cannabis is a science, then making great concentrates is an art, and it was a pleasure exploring all 16 works of art entered into the concentrate category of the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup.

For our judging sessions, we primarily smoked with a red-hot hookah coal and a glass pipe. Small samples of the concentrate were dropped onto the hot coal and inhaled, a method that proved excellent for judging because you could clearly see how a sample burned and what it left behind after it was spent. Check out hightimes.com/fullmelt for more information on the hot-coal method for smoking hash.

1st Place: Ingrid

(Leonard Moore Cooperative)

THC: 45.45% / CBD: 0.89% / CBN: 1.66%

This concentrate was presented as an unpressed powder that was soft between the fingers and easily worked into a pliable ball. The hash was a pleasure to smoke, with a floral flavor and a great expansion sensation once it hit the lungs. This sample quickly boiled away and left nothing behind on the coal—a great sign for medical patients seeking the purest concentrate possible.



2nd Place: Herojuana

(Phillips Rx)

THC: 54.65% / CBD: 1.32% / CBN: 2.24%

This sample looked like a piece of caramel. When held up to the sun, light would pass through it like a piece of amber. When squeezed between the fingers, it would crumble into fragrant powder. And with a whopping THC/CBD content, it was powerful medicine as well.



3rd Place: Granddaddy Purple Wax

(7 Stars Holistic Healing Center)

THC: 59.98% / CBD: 2.35% / CBN: 1.26%

At room temperature, this concentrate was nearly impossible to handle, so we kept it in the freezer between sessions. The sticky brown mass exploded into a puff of white smoke upon hitting the coal, followed by a complete burn with nothing left behind at all. And at nearly 60 percent THC, a little certainly went a long way!

For a full list of entries in the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup, please visit hightimes.com/2010medcupentries.

Scan this tag to see video of the 'hot-coal' hash smoking method.



Activist and author, Chris Conrad, takes an authoritative hit.





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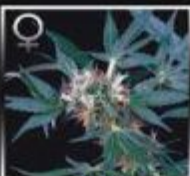
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Medical Cannabis Cup samples dehydrate in "weigh boats" prior to testing.



Steep Hill co-founder David Lampach in front of the lab's gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer.



LAB-TESTED

Oakland's Steep Hill Laboratories tested every HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup entry for potency as part of its ongoing mission to help the medical-marijuana industry's own efforts to regulate the safety and efficacy of its offerings.

Since opening its doors in 2008, Steep Hill Laboratories has scientifically tested more than 12,000 distinct cannabis samples in order to determine their exact percentage of THC, CBD

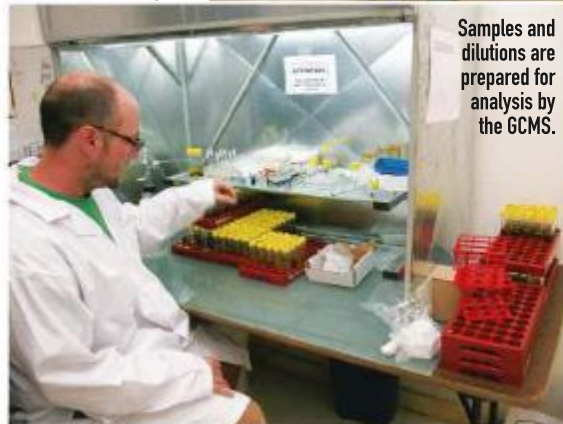
and CBN (the best-known cannabinoids), while simultaneously ensuring that each new batch of medical marijuana is free of mold, pesticides and other potentially dangerous contaminants. Already working with over 50 different medical-marijuana providers across the

state of California, this dedicated lab is devoted to taking a leading role in the effort to ensure a safe supply of medicinal-grade cannabis to patients, while offering legally operating dispensaries and collectives a way to self-regulate the quality (and potency) of their products in an industry still largely free of oversight when it comes to cultivation practices.

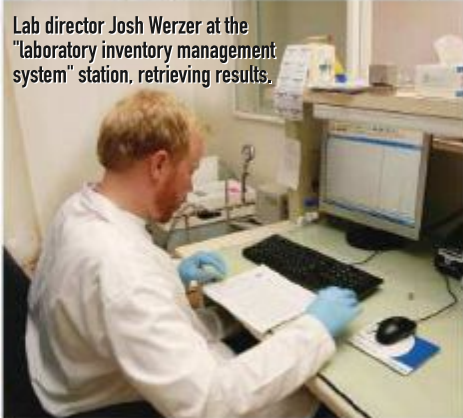
To this end, Steep Hill employs both a gas-chromatography (GS) machine and a high-performance-liquid chromatography (HPLC) machine to separate each cannabis sample into its various compounds, followed by a mass spectrometer to test for potency. Dispensaries and collectives must provide the lab with a two-gram sample for testing and are notified immediately if a new batch registers unsafe levels of contaminants, so they can remove it from the supply line before it reaches patients. Participating providers also receive information on potency quickly enough that Oakland's Harborside Health Center—a leading dispensary with branches in both Oakland and San Jose—can label all its medicinal offerings with exact information on THC and CBD levels at the point of purchase.



Checking samples at the pesticide screening station.



Samples and dilutions are prepared for analysis by the GCMS.



Lab director Josh Werzer at the "laboratory inventory management system" station, retrieving results.

According to Steep Hill, entries at the Medical Cannabis Cup averaged 15 to 16 percent THC, whereas the buds that the lab normally tests average from 10 to 12 percent.

the highest levels, although the Cup winners in both the *indica* and *sativa* categories (Cali Gold and Vortex, respectively) tested above 18 percent THC, while the Cup-winning concentrate clocked in at a whopping 45.5 percent.

"We were blown away by the support from patients and the industry for what we've created here in California," said Addison De Moura, a former cannabis grower and provider who founded Steep Hill along with partner David Lampach. "It was a privilege to be part of the first-ever HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup—everyone's response was positive, and we can't wait for next year!" ✨

Cannabis, of course, is a complicated plant with a myriad of active compounds that affect the human body and mind in complex ways we're only beginning to understand—so at this point, mere scientific data can't be expected to replace the (admittedly subjective) experience of actual humans, like our official expert judges. Still, access to accurate information on THC and CBD levels offers medical patients an excellent baseline when selecting strains that will work best for their particular ailments. According to Steep Hill, entries at the Medical Cannabis Cup averaged 15 to 16 percent THC, whereas the buds that the lab normally tests average from 10 to 12 percent. And while the winners all had high potency, they didn't necessarily have

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California's cannabis revolution is on the ballot this November, but are voters really ready to legalize it?

Tea Party

By David Bienenstock

Richard Lee reaches out to tighten the cap on a small spray bottle of light brown liquid as he rolls through one of his thriving nurseries. These days, he may be the most high-profile marijuana entrepreneur in America, but not even the smallest detail of life in Oaksterdam escapes his attention. Of course, Lee's not only the mythical town's unofficial mayor; he's the founding father of a nine-block stretch of Broadway in Oakland that's now known to pot smokers worldwide as the home of his cannabusinesses, including the three-story, 30,000-square-foot main campus of Oaksterdam University, two coffeeshops, a medical-marijuana dispensary, a gift shop, a student union and his political headquarters—all of which have helped transform the area from a scene of urban blight into a "green oasis" of commercial viability and community support.

A medical-marijuana user since 1990—when he slipped on a catwalk and broke his back while working as a lighting technician for Aerosmith—Lee now wants to take the fight for cannabis freedom to its logical conclusion: total legalization for all adults. And he's put at least \$1.4 million of his own money where his mouth is, spearheading and financing Proposition 19, the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010, which will appear on this November's statewide ballot alongside the candidates for governor and attorney general.

To win, Lee will have to raise a lot more cash, coordinate the kind of grassroots movement required to get out the vote, and—perhaps most importantly—identify precisely the right messaging required to convince the electorate that it's time to make history. He expected (and received) early opposition to this effort from the usual suspects with their typically self-serving objections, including the California Police Chiefs Association, which benefits financially from marijuana-related casework and asset seizures. But the pot impresario admits to being a bit blindsided by some longtime marijuana activists—and even growers—who've openly urged others to vote no on the initiative.

Chief among them is Dennis Peron, who co-founded the first medical-marijuana "buyers' club" in the US and later co-authored Proposition 215, which made California the first state to legalize medical marijuana in 1996. Once an esteemed member of the Oaksterdam University faculty, Peron left the organization and even began picketing Lee's Blue Sky coffeeshop every week in protest of the initiative, as well as any other plan that would give the government undue control over marijuana.

In a September 2009 statement entitled "Why I Oppose the 'Tax & Regulate' Marijuana Initiative," Peron pointed to three "fatal flaws" in the language of the statute, calling the one-ounce limit too small (likening it to being able to have only one or two bottles of wine at a given time); condemning large excise taxes on marijuana as an "unfair" way to maintain its status as "the most expensive, blatantly overpriced product on the market"; and sounding an alarm over the inclusion of harsh new penalties for supplying marijuana to minors—even to someone over 18 but under 21.

In the initiative's own words: "Every person 21 years of age or over who knowingly furnishes, administers or gives, or offers to furnish, administer or give, any marijuana to a person aged 18 years or older, but younger than 21 years of age, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of up to six months and be fined up to \$1,000 for each offense."

Lee counters that the offending language is meant to make the initiative palatable to a skeptical public, that the penalties for pot would be the same as for alcohol, and that extending legalization to 18-year-olds loses too many votes. He calls the public feud with Peron a serious bummer. "He's one of my heroes, who I modeled a lot of my activism off of, but to hear him say, 'I don't want to pay any taxes on marijuana—it should be peace and love and free

