

ANNUAL VAPE PEN REVIEW

HIGH TIMES

November 490

POT AND THE NFL

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LEGAL
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Each flowering room has its own dedicated commercial air conditioner and dehumidifier—we're talking A/C units the size of a small car.

—The Brady Bunch, page 74

- 10 Internet**
- 12 Editor's Letter**
- 14 Letters**
- 16 Contact High**
- 23 Highwitness News**
Pot is not bad for your health and High Five
- 30 Lifestyle**
- 32 High Buys**
- 34 Entertainment**
Rapper/comedian Awkwafina, The Hip Abduction & Reviews
- 40 Cannabusiness**
- 42 THMQ**
- 115 Dear Danko**
- 122 Gear**
- 124 Edibles**
- 128 Dr. Mitch**
- 132 NORMLizer/FFOTM**
- 136 Dope Rider**
- 144 Pix of the Crop**
- 148 Next Month**
- 154 The Pot 40**

47 Daytime Highs

High Times returned to San Bernardino, California, to host our first-ever Medical Cannabis Concentrates Cup with 12 categories of hash.
By Mike Hughes

58 2016 Vapor-Pen Review

Whether you're looking for stealthiness, efficiency, a sleek design or big hits, a team of 30 judges did all the heavy lifting (and vaping) in this year's review. *By Jen Bernstein*

69 Pot and the NFL

Will the National Football League ever embrace cannabis as an alternative to addictive and dangerous opioids? Former players speak out.
By Nathan Jackson and Dan Skye

74 The Brady Bunch

Step inside an award-winning marijuana-production facility in the Pacific Northwest run by master grower Brady Clausen, who shares the valuable lessons he's learned from years of cultivating connoisseur-quality pot. *By Stinkbud*

97 Marijuana Election: 2016

Will historians look back on 2016 as the year that pot prohibition finally crumbled? We preview the upcoming election. *By Russ Belville*

107 High Times Interview: Melissa Etheridge

The legendary rocker headlined the Michigan Medical Cannabis Cup, where she sparked up a joint onstage and proudly declared her love for the plant. *By Mary Jane Gibson*

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The Rocket!

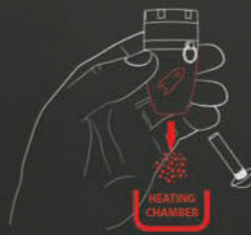
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While more and more cannabis cultivators are heading indoors to produce potent pot for concentrates, @massiveseeds reminds us that ganja grown under the sun is still a thing of beauty. The gorgeous plant pictured here sunning itself is Tangie grown from seed. According to the photog, "This pheno turned out very dark purple with pink pistils and light green foliage. The yield was kind of light and wispy but the smell and smoke is incredibly unique and tasty. Thanks @crockett420 for breeding such an amazing terpene profile."



POT POLL

Smoking Poll

The cannabis marketplace is constantly evolving. And with the emergence of new toking technologies, pot lovers who once primarily had to decide between joints and bongs now have an abundance of options for how they choose to consume cannabis. Ever curious about all things pot, we asked readers which method of consumption is their favorite.

Predictably, of the over 2,500 readers who responded, a whopping 69 percent said they prefer cannabis combustion—joints, pipes, bongs or blunts. Vaping was the second most favored consumption method, garnering 14 percent of the vote. Despite the current concentrate revolution, only 9 percent of respondents like dabbing best, while edibles and tinctures finished with just 7 percent and 1 percent of the vote respectively.

[Cast your vote in our latest poll online!](#)

Richie Rich with his devil trapped in a bong



Glass Artist of the Month: Richie Rich

From an early age, Richie Rich says, "I was immersed in art and Latin culture." His father was a welder and his mother was a cake decorator, so, he explains, "The concepts of glass artisanship were relatively clear to me."

But he also says that he was raised by four women and grew up with "knitting, sewing and cooking more than sports." Whatever the source of his ability, Richie says his love of art spurred his drive to produce glass art with quality craftsmanship.

Following a stint working for Puff & Stuff, a San Diego glass company, he went solo. Now at work behind the torch for 16 years, he cites Dali, Rodin and Henry Moore as immense influences on his work and relies on his experiences as a world traveler for further inspiration. [Check out Richie Rich's work online!](#)



We Want To Hear From You!

Tweet your best high observations and comments our way @HIGH_TIMES_Mag for a chance to be featured on this page! And be sure to follow us on Facebook (Facebook/HIGHTIMES-Mag) and Instagram (@hightimesmagazine) for all the latest news as it's happening!

@AbrevayaR - @HIGH_TIMES_Mag It is in the best interests of the United States of America (and the world) to legalize marijuana.

@LoveSomeAlien - I often think of relocating based on @HIGH_TIMES_Mag pot price report...

@seanstaug - @HIGH_TIMES_Mag How odd-they aren't testing for Big Pharma opioids in their roadside testing but they are testing MMJ Patients...wonder why?

@VillagePanda777 - @HIGH_TIMES_Mag wouldnt it be easier to build a wall around tRump?

@SuziQ420thebest - @HIGH_TIMES_Mag I made my last batch of tincture with THCA. Curing me and getting hubby off big pharma! #illegallymedicated

@jackpugtoo - @HIGH_TIMES_Mag Every entertainer who uses cannabis should boycott performances in states where marijuana is illegal.

@KY_LAN_ - Trump does not support states rights to legalize Marijuana @ProMarijuana @HIGH_TIMES_Mag @legal_marijuana Clinton does

@connor_daren - @HIGH_TIMES_Mag Not to mention the fact that what grows from that seed can save lives, helps environment & budgets

@LKENNEDY_ - @HIGH_TIMES_Mag grab your trees and GET TO IT

@blackangelband1 - @HIGH_TIMES_Mag The War on Drugs is The War on People and The War on Freedom. It is more Stalinist Russia than USA



Poll: Which Method of Pot Consumption Is Your Fave?

Smoking! Pass that joint, pipe, bong or blunt.	69%
Dabbing! I like my nails hot and my pot potent.	9%
Vaping! All I need is my wallet, keys, phone and vape pen.	14%
Eating! Edibles are the best of both worlds—food AND weed.	7%
Drinking! Tinctures may be underrated but they're the best.	1%

2,553 Votes



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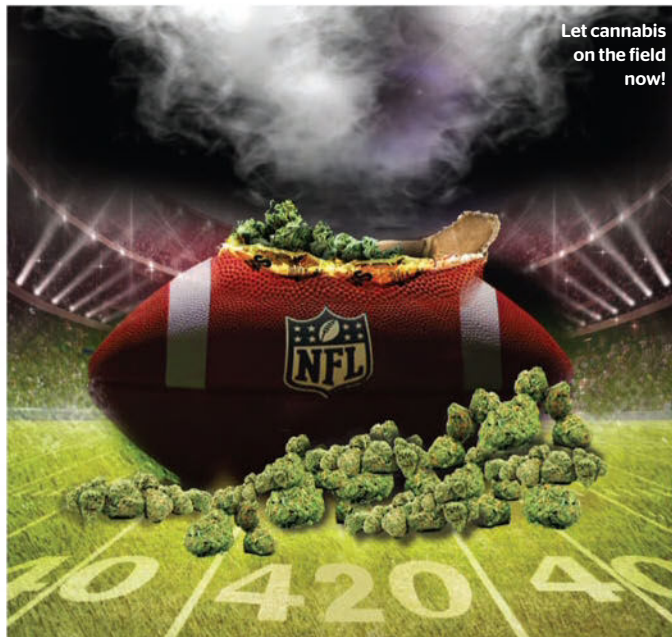


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GRIDIRON GANJA

In 1973, the novel *North Dallas Forty* was published. Written by the late Peter Gent, who played for the Dallas Cowboys, it chronicled the rampant use of opioids in the National Football League and the fearsome physical punishment that players undergo on a daily basis. It also detailed the NFL's pressure-cooker atmosphere, which often leads to self-destructive behavior on the part of players. Needless to say, the book was not well received by the league.

North Dallas Forty may have been released over four decades ago, but professional football's playing fields remain extremely dangerous. Pharmaceutical use is epidemic, and the severity of injuries has only increased. Why? The players are bigger and faster now. When speed, strength and power combine, the collision of bodies is often catastrophic.

As a fan, I've watched with disgust over the years as the NFL punished players for their cannabis use. Pills and booze, which are undeniably harmful, are okay, but players earn long suspensions and hefty fines for using cannabis—penalties that far outdistance the legal sanctions imposed by courts. Former running back Ricky Williams (interviewed in this issue) was suspended for an entire year. Wide receiver Josh Gordon was benched for the entire 2015 season and will have to serve a four-game suspension before he will be allowed to play in 2016... just for smoking a joint.

Former players have had enough. Several came forward to contribute to this issue, offering ringing endorsements of cannabis for both current and retired players. They know the truth about the plant's benefits and want the NFL to take the lead in ensuring the long-term health of its players. I was honored to talk to these thoughtful, intelligent men, and I'm hopeful that the NFL will seriously consider their ideas.

Also in these pages: We preview the upcoming presidential election and what it means for marijuana-law reform; *HT* business editor Jen Bernstein assesses the latest crop of vapor pens; and rocker/activist Melissa Etheridge makes her own case for legal cannabis.

The strength of our community continues to grow daily.

Dan Skye
Editor-in-Chief

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Tweed Scream

First off, fuck Tweed—they suck! All they're doing is trying to shut dispensaries in Canada ("Tweeding the Garden," Sept. '16). They want to be the only people allowed to sell it, but the problem is they're a bunch of idiots who don't know how to properly grow cannabis. They don't even know how to manicure or dry it. In fact, it's irradiated. It's garbage. Many tests by others have proven that the test results they cite aren't even close to being accurate. These people suck, and it's a shame that DNA Genetics and Snoop Dogg have gotten involved with them.

Colin Hamilton

Editor-in-chief Dan Skye responds:

Attacking someone without having the facts seems to be the rage these days, but I visited Tweed—you didn't.

Tweed's operation is immaculate. Their quality control is outstanding, and they also have a program for constant improvement in place.

Also, Tweed has nothing to do with the dispensary arrests. To insist that they're trying to "shut dispensaries in Canada" is malicious and irresponsible. Tweed does believe that dispensaries should be regulated—as Tweed itself is—to ensure quality products. But to quote Tweed communications director Jordan Sinclair: "We hope the government of Canada increases the number of access points included in the soon-to-be-updated medical system and allows people to grow at home. More access is a good thing."

Also, you obviously know nothing about irradiated products. Tweed's customers are medical marijuana patients. Many have weak immune systems and need irradiated products, and Tweed has traditionally stocked them. However, the bulk of Tweed's products are not irradiated—though the people who need them are thankful for the option.

As far as testing is concerned, many of Tweed's customers are capped at purchasing products under 12 percent by their doctors, so there's no upside to inflating the test results. And DNA Genetics was contracted by Tweed to improve their cultivation procedures and products. How can that be a bad thing?

Maximum Edibles Effect

THC- and CBD-infused edibles have been extremely helpful in treating my pain from shoulder surgery. They also help with sleep. I'd like to get some guidance as to the best way to maximize the effects of the medication. Everything I've read suggests that edibles should be eaten with food in order to moderate their effects. I typically eat edibles in the morning before breakfast—I prefer the effects of the medication on an empty stomach.



I'd like to get some guidance as to the best way to maximize the effects of the medication. Everything I've read suggests that edibles should be eaten with food in order to moderate their effects.

However, dosing later in the day seems less straightforward. I would appreciate any advice on how best to manage my edibles and food intake so that I can receive the maximum impact from the medication. Once I start eating food, it seems that eating additional edibles throughout the day doesn't have much impact. Also, smoking or vaping seems to *lessen* the effects of the edibles. Is this typical, or is it my imagination? In general, I seem to have a high tolerance level.

Mark

Edibles editor Elise McDonough responds:

For those ganja-tarians looking to maximize the effects of their edibles, consuming them on an empty stomach will definitely make the experience more intense. If you're consuming CBD, however, it will help you maintain a mellow, balanced high, and your edibles and smoking sessions will have less of a noticeable impact. When choosing a diet complementary with cannabis, include high-quality, nutritious fats such as coconut oil and olive oil, along with plenty of vegetables, leafy greens and high-fiber foods to help your body digest efficiently. Avoid too much sugar, caffeine or alcohol, which will muddy the effects of your marijuana high. Remember, if you're consuming cannabis regularly, you will build a tolerance, so you'll need to increase your THC dose incrementally day by day.

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Centerfold Fruit

Your Grape Soda centerfold (Sept. '16) appears

to have two "bananas" near the top right of the bud. Is it the norm to see bananas in high-quality bud? This is a serious question, as I work in the industry and see a lot of hermaphrodites. How concerned should we be? Do consumers care if there are a few bananas?

Rob

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko responds:

There does appear to be two small, immature male flowers in the photograph. Some modern hybrids exhibit symptoms of hermaphroditism as they approach harvest, but luckily for most growers, the males appear so late in the flowering period that they can't do any damage by seeding the crop. Consumers rarely notice the tiny, immature male flowers.

Boycott Drug Testers

I'm a medical marijuana cardholder, and I'd like to see people who use marijuana stop buying products from businesses that terminate employees for failing a drug test. Thank you!

Scott Smith

We'd have to boycott more than just businesses, since state and local governments, as well as the Feds, require pre-employment drug testing for civil-service jobs.

Father/Son Activism

Thanks very much for the public-service ad in the August 2016 issue. My dad, Bob Kundert, founded the American Cannabis Society in 1978 and served as its president. He worked with Jack Herer until 2000. He passed away in the nursing home wearing his "Thank You for Pot Smoking" shirt.

We're forging ahead at great speed now, changing laws through direct legislation and citizen initiatives and bringing news of the best medicine and best recreational-drug choice on the planet. We hope to be included in more of your great work. Free the herb!

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November 2016 **High Times**

DABS AWAY At the High Times Concentrates Cup in San Bernardino, helpful dab hostesses assisted attendees in their quests to reach the perfect high. Cali Kush Farms offered a selection of superior concentrates. Check out all the action in "Daytime Highs" on page 47. *Photo by Dan Skye*

**Contact
High**





November 2016 *High Times*

THE BRADY BUNCH The Pacific Northwest has provided some of the strongest and tastiest cannabis for many years and recent gains in legalization have drawn growers from the underground into the light. Go behind the scenes at one such award-winning Oregon ganja garden run by expert cultivator Brady Clausen on page 74. *Photo by Stinkbud*

19

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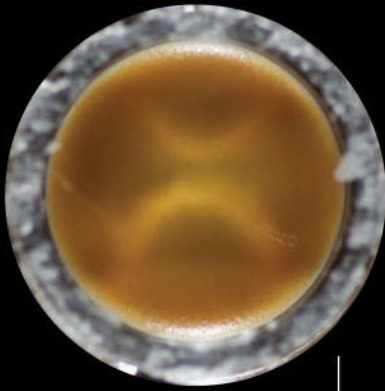
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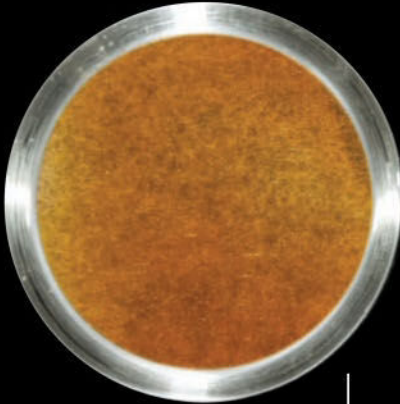
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Highwitness News

**Pokémon
Go confuses
the cops!**



Style
High Style
CBD doggy treats can help improve the health of your best friend. p.30



Entertainment
Awkwafina
Get to know the hilarious rapper/comedian/actress p.34



Pot use is associated with better metabolic health.

researchers assessed whether long-term cannabis use negatively impacted the following areas: periodontal health, lung function, systemic inflammation, metabolic syndrome, waist circumference, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, triglyceride levels, blood pressure, glycated hemoglobin levels, body-mass index and self-reported overall health.

Their verdict: “In general, our findings showed that cannabis use over 20 years was unrelated to health problems in early mid-life.”

Specifically, the researchers found that long-term cannabis use was associated with a decline in only one area—periodontal health. By contrast, the report’s authors acknowledged that those with a history of marijuana use possessed “slightly better metabolic health” (smaller waist circumference, lower body-mass index, better lipid profiles and improved glucose control) compared with subjects who didn’t smoke pot. The researchers found no adverse association between marijuana smoking and pulmonary health (such as increased risk of airway obstructions), nor did they discover any link between cannabis consumption and cardiovascular risks (such as high blood pressure).

While the findings may come as a surprise to some, the results are consistent with prior studies assessing the effects of long-term cannabis use on health. For instance, a 2012 *JAMA* study by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, reported that the inhalation of cannabis smoke over a period of two decades was not associated with the types of lung damage commonly associated with tobacco smoking. Emory

High and Healthy

Long-term cannabis use is *not* associated with increased health risks. *By Paul Armentano*

Smoking pot isn't going to increase your risk of a heart attack, but it just might slim your waistline. Those are the findings of newly released longitudinal data published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*.

An international team of researchers from the United States and New Zealand studied the relationship between persistent cannabis use after the age of 18 and generalized health at age 38 in a group of 1,037 individuals. In particular, the

« University researchers reached a similar conclusion in 2015: Writing in the *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*, they found that cannabis exposure was not associated with a decline in FEV1 (forced expiratory volume) or deleterious changes in spirometric values, concluding: “The pattern of marijuana’s effects seems to be distinctly different when compared to that of tobacco use.” Numerous studies have also previously affirmed a link between pot use and better metabolic health. Data published last year in *The American Journal of Public Health* found that subjects who consume cannabis are 50 percent less likely than abstainers to suffer from cardiovascular risk factors such as high blood pressure, high blood sugar, and unhealthy levels of cholesterol or abdominal fat. A 2011 analysis of cannabis use and obesity in a nationally representative sample of more than 43,000 Americans reported that those who smoked pot “are actually less likely to be obese than nonusers in the general population.”

Previous studies have reported that direct and even indirect exposure to combustive smoke, particularly from tobacco, can be a risk factor for gum disease. Consequently, mitigating such exposures—for

Subjects who consume cannabis are 50 percent less likely than abstainers to suffer from cardiovascular risk factors such as high blood pressure, high blood sugar, and unhealthy levels of cholesterol or abdominal fat.

example, through the use of non-smoked forms of cannabis, or by eliminating the habit of mixing tobacco with cannabis—would arguably reduce the likelihood of this negative association.

The *JAMA* paper is one of a number of recently published longitudinal studies assessing the long-term health implications of cannabis use. A 2015 evaluation by researchers from Rutgers University and the Pittsburgh School of Medicine reported that subjects who began smoking pot in late adolescence were no more likely than non-users to experience mental-health problems, such as an increased incidence of depression or anxiety, by midlife.

Separate longitudinal data published this year in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* reported that the cumulative use of cannabis by adolescents had no adverse effect on intelligence. The authors concluded: “In

the largest longitudinal examination of marijuana use and IQ change... we find little evidence to suggest that adolescent marijuana use has a direct effect on intellectual decline... The lack of a dose-response relationship, and an absence of meaningful differences between discordant siblings, lead us to conclude that the deficits observed in marijuana users [in previous studies] are attributable to confounding factors that influence both substance initiation and IQ rather than a neurotoxic effect of marijuana.”

The latest study, “Associations between cannabis use and physical health problems in early mid-life: A longitudinal comparison of persistent cannabis versus tobacco users,” appears in the June 1 edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. ✨

Paul Armentano is the deputy director of NORML.

HIGH FIVE

The Cost of Prohibition

How the pot ban wreaks havoc on the US economy. *By Mark Miller*



Fewer Jobs

In states where medical or recreational cannabis has been legalized, employment has increased. Retail sales in Colorado alone have created more than 10,000 jobs in three years—jobs previously unavailable under prohibition. Also, pot busts prevent otherwise capable employees from finding work due to imprisonment or arrest records.



Loss of Markets

The United States is getting trounced in the global markets. America already trails Canada, Europe and China when it comes to hemp production—even India is set to become a major player. Meanwhile, the US is in danger of becoming No. 3 in North America when it comes to reefer reform, as both Canada and Mexico stand poised to legalize recreational ganja nationwide.



Poorer Health

Marijuana’s health benefits have long been ignored because the Feds prohibit its study. Example: the medical journal *Obesity* linked cannabis use to reduced body-mass index and fat mass, while a 2010 Brookings Institution study estimated the total cost of American obesity at a belt-busting \$215 billion per year. Obviously, a less healthy society is also one that’s less productive economically.



Lost Tax Revenue

Taxpayer dollars spent on arresting, prosecuting and imprisoning nonviolent marijuana offenders are completely wasted, even as prohibition costs governments the revenue that could come from taxing legal marijuana sales. A 2007 Marijuana Policy Almanac study found that these two factors ripped off American taxpayers for \$42 billion annually, an amount that’s surely risen in the past decade.



Urban Blight

Many municipalities have been brainwashed into opposing cannabis businesses. Neighborhood groups on the economically depressed South Side of Chicago were so opposed to medical pot that it took until May 2016 for a dispensary to open. Data show that marijuana businesses improve areas of blight. Downtown warehouses, once neglected and empty, now host large-scale grows, generating revenue.

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Uruguay Pharmacies Pass on Pot

Uruguay made history in 2013 when it became the first country to legalize recreational cannabis nationwide. While the law allows Uruguayans with a license to grow marijuana, officials chose pharmacies as the primary distributors for legal weed. Pharmacies can sell up to 40 grams of cannabis per month to registered citizens—however, of the 1,200 pharmacies in Uruguay, only 50 have so far applied to take part in the retail-pot program.

Uruguayan officials had hoped that legalizing and regulating marijuana would combat the crime and violence caused by drug trafficking in the South American nation. Unfortunately, that's also what's keeping many pharmacies from selling pot, as potential retailers fear retaliation from local black-market dealers.

There have also been moral objections, with some pharmacists reporting that their regular customers don't want them selling weed. For many of these businesses, the potential risks outweigh the benefits—particularly in areas with heavy tourism, since Uruguay's law allows pot to be sold only to properly registered citizens of the country over the age of 18.

Faked Alaska

An Alaska lawmaker opposed to the commercial sale of pot recently slipped a punitive provision into a seemingly mundane bill. The measure, which was signed into law by Governor Bill Walker, imposes new criminal-background checks on anyone applying for a license to run a legal cannabusiness in the state.

The measure allows state regulators to send an applicant's fingerprints to the Alaska Department of Public Safety and the FBI for a national background check. After earlier attempts to legislate such checks for pot retailers failed, Republican State Senator Peter Micciche snuck the regulation into a bill that appeared to be about booze.

Previously, applicants signed sworn affidavits stating that they hadn't been convicted of a crime. If the new checks reveal a criminal arrest—including, presumably, for now-legal cannabis—their licenses will be immediately suspended.

RICKY WILLIAMS'S HIGH ROAD



The NFL's hysteria over cannabis use was never more evident than in the league's handling of former star running back Ricky Williams. The fifth overall pick in 1999, Williams was twice suspended for pot, including for the entire 2006 season. In a new *Sports Illustrated* documentary, *Ricky Williams Takes the High Road*, the former Pro Bowl player (and current pro-bowl ex-player) says that he was drug-tested by the NFL over 500 times, likely more than any athlete in sports history.

Williams, who lost millions of dollars in salary and endorsement deals due to the league's pot punishments, aims to recoup some of that money by entering the world of cannabusiness. He recently opened a weed-friendly gym in San Francisco called Power Plant Fitness and Wellness.

Williams first started using marijuana to help with the symptoms of social-anxiety disorder. He's currently advocating for cannabis to be allowed in the NFL as an alternative to addictive painkillers.



Tokémon? No, Pokémon.

Cop Crashes Pokémon Go Meet-Up

A random encounter between three Pokémon Go players had a clueless cop thinking he'd stumbled onto a nocturnal narcotics deal—but the officer soon joined in on the trend.

Pokémon Go, the augmented-reality game sensation, allows players to view virtual characters layered in the physical world through a smartphone's camera.

Reddit user SlothofDoom, who describes himself as a forty-something white guy, explained the bizarre run-in on the site. Apparently, after having trouble sleeping, he decided to play Pokémon Go at a local park at 3 a.m. and encountered two black men in their 20s. The guys informed him that there was an Onyx character at a blue truck nearby; after capturing it successfully, the three men started chatting.

When a wary cop came on the scene, the trio had to convince him they were playing the most popular game in the world—not taking part in a drug deal. Sufficiently persuaded, the officer downloaded the game on the spot and pressed the players for tips on getting started.

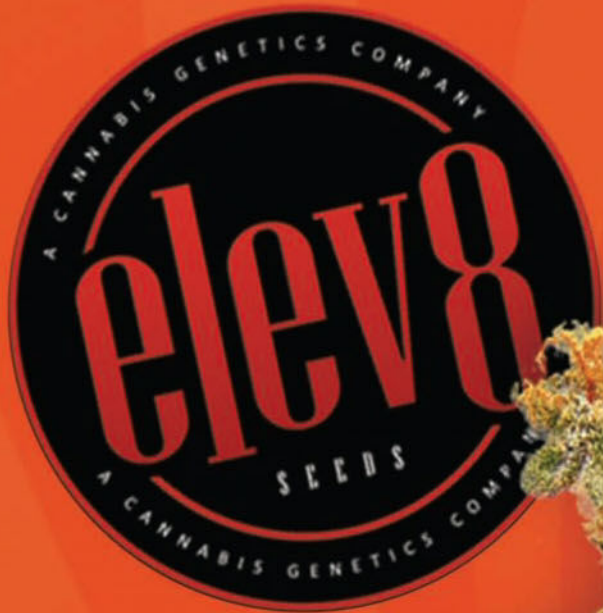


K2 Zombies in Brooklyn

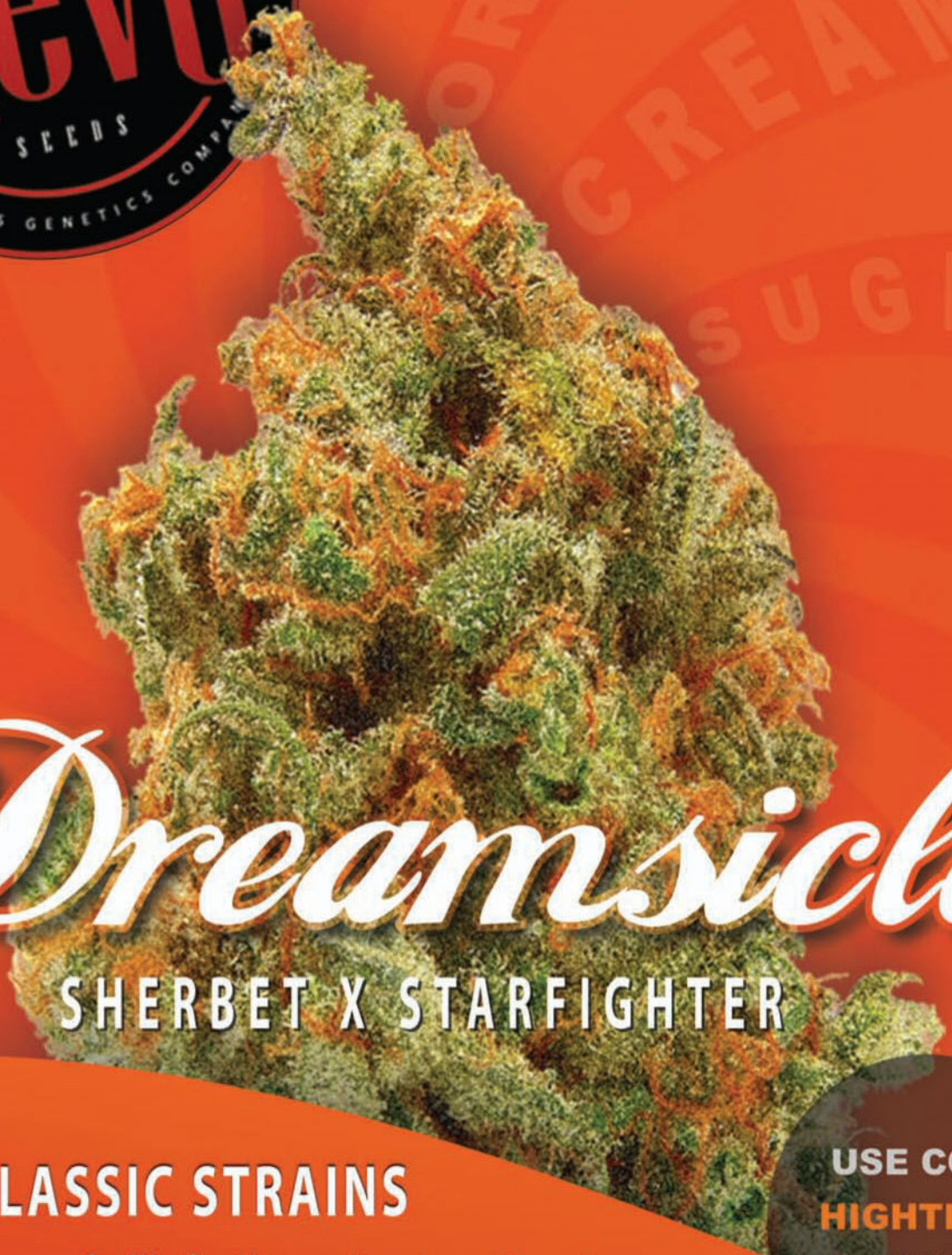
A bizarre incident involving synthetic marijuana briefly turned a Brooklyn neighborhood into a scene straight out of a horror movie. According to reports, 33 people were hospitalized after allegedly consuming a tainted batch of K2, the popular brand of synthetic pot.

Bedford-Stuyvesant residents began calling police after witnessing what appeared to be a mass overdose, with people scattered along the sidewalk lying down and shaking violently. One witness dubbed the surreal scene "zombieland." The K2 victims were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Over a three-day span in July, New York City experienced a surge in synthetic-pot overdoses, with 130 people being treated in hospitals for bad reactions to the fake weed. The alarming increase in ODs led the city's health department to issue a statement warning New Yorkers "that K2 is extremely dangerous." The NYPD raided five Brooklyn shops suspected of selling synthetic marijuana but came up empty-handed, discovering only minor cigarette-sales infractions.



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Cops Pay Up for Soap, Cocaine Mix-Up

A New York man wrongfully jailed for 29 days has won a \$195,000 settlement from the Pennsylvania State Police. Alexander Bernstein was busted by cops after a roadside drug test incorrectly identified bars of homemade soap as cocaine. Lab tests later revealed the mistake.

In November 2013, Bernstein was traveling in a Mercedes-Benz when the driver was pulled over and police searched the vehicle. After discovering the soap, a chemical roadside test misidentified the substance and Bernstein and the driver were charged with possession of cocaine.

According to the lawsuit, Bernstein lost his job, apartment and possessions as a result of the false positive test that landed him in jail. In addition to the settlement with the police, Bernstein also settled a federal lawsuit against the company that made the defective drug test, Safariland LLC.

Marijuana Is Medicine

Another powerful argument for rescheduling cannabis under the federal Controlled Substances Act came in the form of new research published in the journal *Health Affairs*, which revealed that US states with legal medical cannabis programs reported a significant *decrease* in Medicare prescriptions for pharmaceutical drugs treating chronic pain, anxiety and depression.

The study considered prescriptions filled through Medicare Part D from 2010 to 2013. The pharmaceuticals that cannabis replaced include highly addictive and dangerous opioids and volatile antidepressants. Researchers were able to link the drop in opioids and other medications to medical pot because there was no corresponding decline in prescriptions for drugs like blood thinners, for which cannabis is not a replacement.

According to the report, medical pot resulted in a \$165.2 million reduction in Medicare spending nationwide in 2013. Researchers say that if legal cannabis had been available nationwide, Medicare spending would have dropped by roughly \$470 million.

PASS THE TORCH



The Olympics are a coveted event for host cities, whose economies often receive a major boost from the droves of fans that come to see the games. In the run-up to this year's Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's enterprising marijuana dealers found a way to capitalize on the world's most recognizable sporting event.

In the months before the Summer Games kicked off, anti-narcotics police reported seizing packages of pot decorated with the 2016 Rio Olympics logo—a multicolored geometric pattern above the traditional five-ring symbol—being sold in the Nova Holanda district.

No word yet on whether the impounded pot lived up to the Olympics motto of “Faster, higher, stronger.” The police suspect the savvy marketing to be the work of one of the drug gangs with a stronghold in Rio's slums.



Cops smashed vendor booths in Copenhagen cannabis crackdown.

Shakedown in Freetown

A legendary outpost of the Danish counterculture was unceremoniously shut down—albeit briefly—when Copenhagen police systematically dismantled the open-air marijuana market in the city's autonomous neighborhood of Freetown Christiania.

The cops used sledgehammers and chainsaws to tear down 37 cannabis stalls, while arresting 18 alleged pot vendors. The cops said they also seized five kilos of hash, four kilos of cannabis and over 1,000 rolled joints. For their efforts, they were pelted with eggs and rocks by Freetown dwellers protesting the demolition of the cannabis kiosks.

A police spokesperson claimed the show of force was necessary to create “a peaceful and safe Christiania for everyone.” However, it appears that law enforcement didn't reckon with the resilience of Christiania Freetown, since reports indicate that the marijuana market quickly recovered, with ganja sales resuming on the quaintly named Pusher Street literally minutes after police departed the scene.

Big Pharma's Illegal Oxy Scandal

Shady pharmaceutical manufacturer Purdue Pharma appears to have been aware of illegal sales of its highly lucrative and addictive painkiller OxyContin, according to reporting by the *Los Angeles Times*. Despite having knowledge of the black-market sales, Purdue allegedly failed to notify the DEA, as required by federal law.

According to the *Times*, Purdue was aware of a scam being run by the California clinic Lake Medical, which routinely recruited homeless people to receive prescriptions for Oxy. The homeless people were then driven to pharmacies where the prescriptions were filled, after which the pills were collected by Lake Medical employees and sold on the black market. This scam caused a 1,400 percent jump in prescriptions for 80 mg OxyContin through Lake Medical. Purdue failed to alert the DEA after becoming aware of the massive increase.

Overall, it appears that Purdue was aware of the illicit distribution of more than one million OxyContin pills. The federal government has yet to charge the company with any wrongdoing.



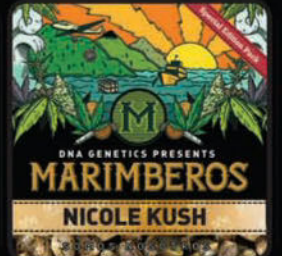
Purdue Pharma knew about a black market pill scheme.

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Marijuana is a guest of honor at this wedding banquet.

“Seeing is believing,” McDonald explains. “I wanted to create a contest that would set the tone for what an upscale cannabis wedding could and should look like.”

The winning couple also scored wedding invitations from Kush Kards, complete with a spot to attach a pre-rolled joint. Matt and Rachael are also integrating their own cannabis into the wedding bouquets, with help from the cannabis floral company Buds and Blossoms.

A Weed Wedding

One lucky couple's dreams come true thanks to a cannabis events company.

There's a reason we worship cannabis: Sometimes, she gives back even more than just a great buzz. Through the power of the goddess Mary Jane, Matt Davenport and Rachael Carlevalle of Durango, Colorado, won the wedding of their dreams. And not just your run-of-the-mill church wedding. We're talking the best kind: a weed wedding.

Love & Marij, a cannabis weddings and events service, teamed up with Cultivating Spirits, a cannabis tour and events guide, to sponsor the giveaway. Matt and Rachael beat out 11 other finalists to cinch the first-place prize. Among their winnings:

event planning by Cultivating Spirits, a complimentary bud bar by High Country Healing, and free use of the luxury Steamboat Springs venue Bella Vista Estate—an ideal location for the nature-loving couple to pledge their eternal love.

Love & Marij was founded by Niki Usbay McDonald. Like all good entrepreneurs, she identified a need and decided to fill it, hooking up soon-to-be-newlyweds with cannabis-friendly vendors. “I noticed that people weren't necessarily able to find vendors that were willing to cooperate with them, because most venues are still



A budding bridal bouquet

afraid of federal laws or don't understand the ever-changing state laws,” McDonald says. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, she knew that beautiful wedding photographs would be a compelling way to combat the unfortunate stigma that still can come from having cannabis as a visible part of your event.

Organic, domestically cultivated turmeric-ginger tonics from California's Roots Medicinals will be served at the reception, and Full Flava Extracts of Santa Cruz will make an exclusive private-stock batch of ice hash and rosin for the wedding's dab bar. Congratulations to the happy couple! *Sophie Saint Thomas*

SPOTLIGHT

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The Best Books for Stoners

If there's one earthly pleasure that will expand your wisdom in the manner weed does, it's books, so let's get stoned and buy some. Here are some of our favorite books that every stoner should have on their bookshelf. *By Sophie Saint Thomas*

1. *Weed: The User's Guide*, by David Schmader

Billed as a "21st Century Handbook for Enjoying Marijuana," *Weed: The User's Guide* is as poignant as it is hilarious. Covering everything from the cancer risks of smoking pot (none), to how to take out of an apple, to what to do when you're too stoned to function and are paranoid your dog is staring at you, this book should be required reading for teenagers before they hit their first joint.

2. *Be Here Now*, by Ram Dass

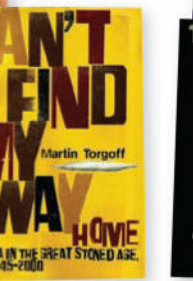
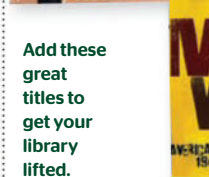
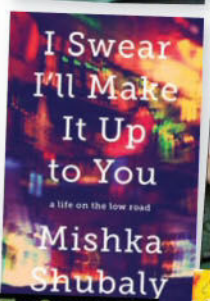
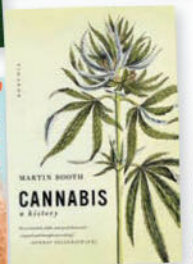
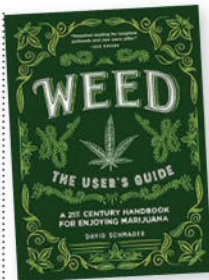
Most of you already own this book, but if you don't, go ask your mom for her copy. Being a stoner and not owning this is like being a Southern Baptist and not owning a copy of the Bible. *Be Here Now* is a pillar of modern spirituality, and the best thing about it is that you don't even necessarily have to read it—just get stoned, flip through the pages, stare, and contemplate the divinity of your existence.

3. *The Official High Times Cannabis Cookbook*, by Elise McDonough (ed.)

The perfect way to start learning how to elevate your cuisine with cannabis. Have you ever tried Obama's Sativa Samosas? No? Well, you better hurry up and add this book to your kitchen before he ends his final term!

4. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, by J.R.R. Tolkien

Not only should everyone who loves weed have a copy of this epic trilogy, but every human on Earth



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should own it. And not only should they own it, they should have to read it so many times that their original copy becomes illegible and they're forced to buy a new one.

5. *You Can't Touch My Hair*, by Phoebe Robinson

Phoebe Robinson is one of the funniest people in the world. She's consulted for *Broad City*, hosts the podcast *2 Dope Queens* with Jessica Williams, and has written for pretty much every magazine you've ever heard of. *You Can't Touch My Hair: And Other Things I Still Have to Explain* is her collection of essays on race, gender and pop culture, and it will make you laugh so hard you might barf up your weed brownie. It's out October 4, but worth pre-ordering now.

6. *Cannabis: A History*, by Martin Booth

The ultimate marijuana textbook, *Cannabis: A History* will school you on the musical, religious and, of course, legal history of our favorite medicine. Change requires action and action requires knowledge, so to help end pot prohibition in your state, study up on your history with this book.

7. *I Swear I'll Make It Up to You*, by Mishka Shubaly

In this hilarious and heart-breaking memoir, subtitled "A Life on the Low Road," Mishka Shubaly recounts surviving a mass shooting on his school's campus, salacious nights he barely remembers with beautiful women who probably hate him, and why he gave up drinking and the mantra "Life's too short to swallow anything you can snort"

for long-distance running, redemption with his father, and a chance to allow the world to experience his music. Don't get turned off by the recovery stuff: Mishka doesn't care how much weed you smoke, and he keeps himself off the booze and bad drugs with a yearly shroom trip.

8. *The Secret Life of Plants*, by Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird

Even the master cannabis grower can learn a thing or two from this classic, such as the desire of plants to please their humans, their ability to communicate with you, and their relation to alien life. This book is as heady as two bowls of Green Crack, and it will have you writing love poems to read out loud to the plants in your life by the second chapter.

9. *Can't Find My Way Home: America in the Great Stoned Age, 1945-2000*, by Martin Torgoff

This five-star manifesto chronicles America's complicated history with illicit substances, cutting through the bullshit and relying only on impeccably dosed education. If you're going to get stoned while reading this, use something to help you concentrate, like Lemon Diesel, because you'll want to take notes to school all your friends.

10. *The Book of Awakening*, by Mark Nepo

Split into micro-chapters for each day of the year, *The Book of Awakening* is a calm and meditative journey inside yourself. Yes, it's super New Age-y. And yes, Oprah loves this book. It's best for reading when you're ready to unwind or go to bed, paired with a hit of Northern Lights, to melt away the harshness of the day and experience sublime relaxation.

11. *Drawing Blood*, by Molly Crabapple

Molly Crabapple is one of the coolest artists alive, and you should absolutely get stoned and read her memoir, which is also an art book, filled with exquisite drawings of everything from the burlesque nightclubs of New York City to the places she's been to as an activist, including Syria, Rikers Island and Guantánamo Bay. Like three hits of acid followed by a spliff, Crabapple will change how you see the world. ✨



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Fresh & Green

NYC rapper/comedian/actress Awkwafina always says exactly what she thinks—and the results are highly entertaining. *By Mary Jane Gibson*



Awkwafina pulls fat rips—and no punches.

“Can I smoke weed right now?” Perched on a comfy couch in an apartment in Brooklyn’s Bushwick neighborhood, Nora Lum, a.k.a. Awkwafina, sparks up a joint of Tangerine Haze and settles back contentedly.

Lum’s been having a good year. When we meet up with her on a sunny afternoon in June, she’s appearing onscreen in theaters across the country in *Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising*, and her video for “Green Tea,” a wry collaboration with Margaret Cho, has just dropped, racking up 100,000-plus views almost overnight. Cho heralds Awkwafina as “the future” in the vid, which is a raucous, hilarious sendup of Asian stereotypes—and also features

“The weed scene in New York, for me, is me in my bedroom not wearing pants.”

plenty of weed smoking.

“That piece that I have in the video was Margaret’s, and it was fucking baller as fuck,” Lum marvels. “We were blazing the whole time, and she had a vape pen that had her name on it. And she was like, ‘This is going to be in the video.’ And I was like, ‘Yeah, that’s going to be in the video—it’s awesome!’”

Born and raised in the New York City borough of Queens,

Lum is a hometown girl—she even wrote a book about it. Billed as a guide to 10 walking-tour adventures “you don’t need a trust fund to enjoy,” *Awkwafina’s NYC* was written as a response to the construction of the Barclays Center—the controversial Jay-Z-backed stadium that divided Brooklyn. “I was just mad at that,” she says. “I was angry about that in a very old-person way.” Gentrification and entitlement really piss Awkwafina off—something she makes

clear in her sardonic hit “NYC Bitches\$”: “New York City, bitch / That’s where I come from / Not where I moved to on Mom and Dad’s trust fund.”

What does Lum think of the weed scene in New York? “Dude, I didn’t fucking know there was weed scenes *anywhere*,” she laughs. “The weed scene in New York, for me, is me in my bedroom not wearing pants. This is what I do when I smoke: I put the whole tin of baked ziti that I just got delivered on an old shirt on my bed, and I’m eating, watching *Border Security: Australia’s Front Line*.”

Speaking of security, she’s had her own bad experience with law enforcement over weed. “I got busted when I was 17, and it was fucking horrifying. The police showed up, and they brought two Chinese cops to arrest me and my Asian friend—they were the kind of cops that could speak in Chinese in case we went rogue, you know. We were like, ‘Dude, we’ve been talking to you in English this whole fucking time. You don’t need to bring Asian cops.’”

As we blaze on, Lum drolly takes aim at the weed tourism in Colorado. “I went to a dispensary in Boulder, and they have a bodyguard that looks like he’s at a nightclub, but he’s just in a medical office—he has an earpiece that’s not connected to anything. We went in and there was this lone dude, and he was such an asshole. He’s used to seeing these weed tourists; he had a whole shtick. It was dumb.” But her tune changed when she got a stack of Cheeba Chews: “Dude, Cheeba Chews are lit as fuck! It was the best edible time I’ve had, *ever*.” ✨

Solo Sessions

Lum recalls, “When I was 18, a friend was like, ‘I’m selling weed now.’ I bought a nug and smoked by myself. I was on eBaum’s World, like: ‘What’s a trippy video I could watch?’ That opened up an era of me getting high alone every single day.”






NEW AMSTERDAM NATURALS

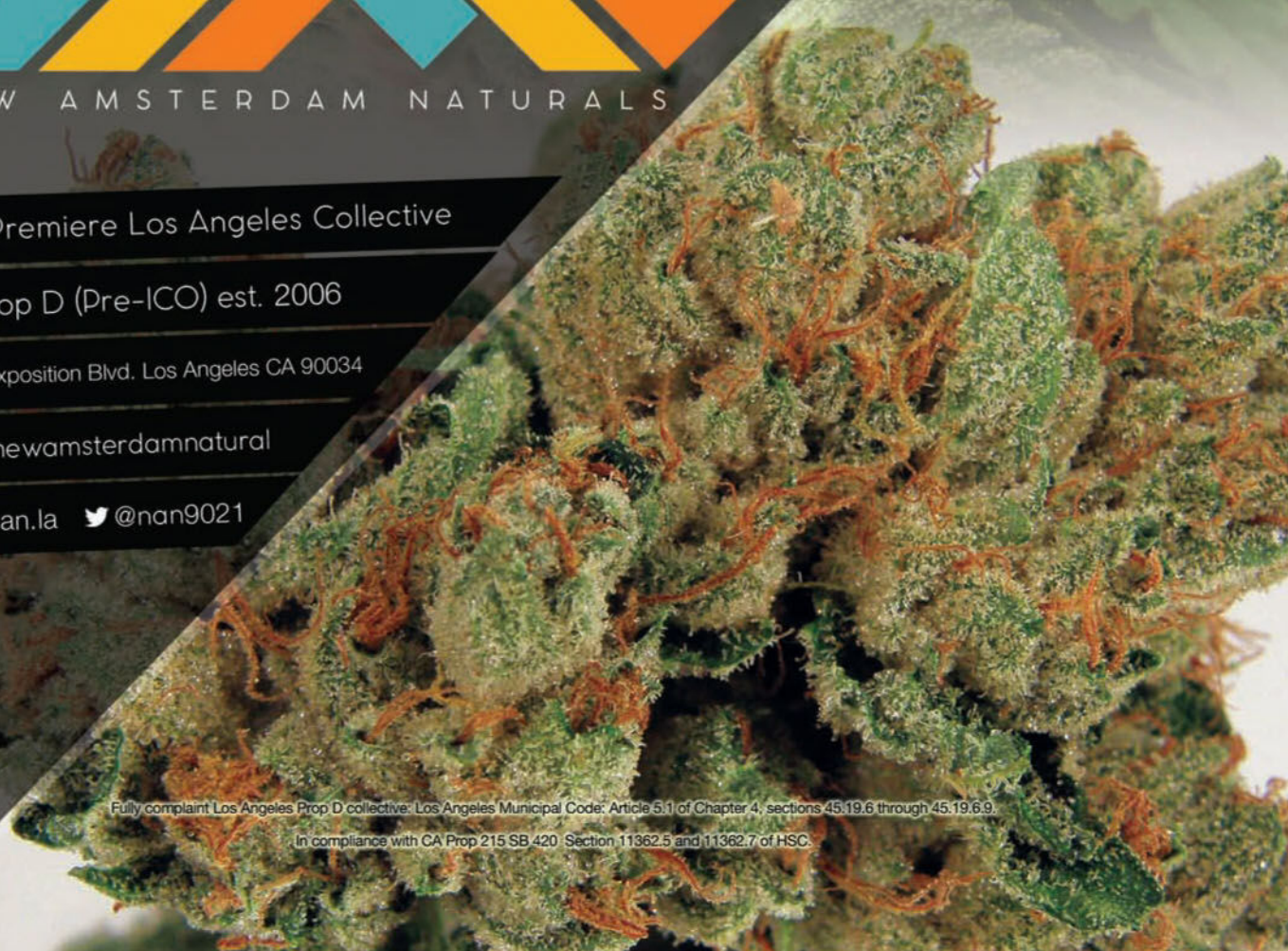
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Breathing Deeply

Cannabis and creation have always been better together for Florida's newest musical sensation, The Hip Abduction. *By Felicia D'Ambrosio*

"There was never a time that I played music that I didn't also smoke weed," says David New, the singer, guitarist and primary songwriter of The Hip Abduction. "When creating, you can overthink something, get stuck in a rut, get too focused on the theory and what *should* be done. If I smoke a little weed or really meditate, get in the zone any way, it opens up new doors musically."

THA bassist Chris Powers was in middle school, playing Nirvana and Black Flag in a basement, when a bandmate's older sister kicked down a half-smoked joint. "Weed has always been connected with music and being creative," Powers muses.

The tropical indie-pop outfit evolved in 2010 from jam sessions in St. Petersburg, FL. The first two THA albums are sun-splashed roots reggae that radiate positivity and

evoke the natural beauty of the band's coastal home. You can practically smell the spliffs and salt air on tunes like "Children of the Sun" (*Send your love right out to sea / And ride that wave on back to me*) from their self-titled 2013 album.

New and Powers cite Paul Simon's *Graceland* and Ladysmith Black Mambazo as music they first heard as kids and returned to as artists with a new appreciation. New was studying guitarists from all over Africa when he met fellow surfer and future bandmate Patrick Klemawesch, who introduced him to the Wassoulou pop music of Mali and the *kora* and *kamale ngoni*—stringed instruments that played a key role in the evolution of THA's sound.

"Our last record [*Gold Under the Glow*] really started from the *ngoni*," says New. "You

know, they are pentatonic, and just passed around to family. Anyone can pick it up and play."

As the band's sound has advanced, using more technology, synths and in-ear monitoring onstage, their days of getting high for performances have waned. "We have a lot going on in a six-piece band," says New, who considers cannabis essential for songwriting but a hazard to his own live performance. "It's not a problem to play our older songs while high," he adds. "But some people in the band need to be extremely focused, and the jams can get really intense. I can be paranoid, if I get really high, that I can't communicate correctly."

"I get paranoid when he's too high!" Powers laughs. "I'm like, 'All of a sudden, we're going to the second chord?'"

Though The Hip Abduction's



Photos With Bigfoot

"We hired a really expensive photographer to shoot press photos," says New. "We thought, 'Let's smoke a lot of weed'—I think it was the Bigfoot strain. Well, we got so high that we couldn't not smile. None of the photos were usable."

"If I smoke a little weed or really meditate... it opens up new doors musically."

weed experience has been positive and has fueled their creative exploration, Powers points out that many people in their home state have suffered under draconian drug laws. "We support Florida Families Against Mandatory Minimums," he says. "They're working to reduce sentences for nonviolent cannabis offenders. There's such a disparity between sentences for people of means versus people without—it's been on my mind a lot. Connecting with advocates has made it clear to us: If you put an 18-year-old in prison for 20 years for weed, what are they going to do with their lives after that? It seems like an easy thing to fix, and Florida is making steps in the right direction, toward decriminalization. I hope our sunny state takes the direction of DC and Colorado."

Working hard to get their festival and club crowds moving, The Hip Abduction cast a sparkling net of worldly dance pop, happy hooks, vibrant polyrhythms and dub basslines, catching and releasing the energy from audiences large and small alike. "The new album has brought new people to our music," Powers says. "It's the same vibes as our roots reggae, finding that same happy space. The feeling I get from it is what I love." ✨

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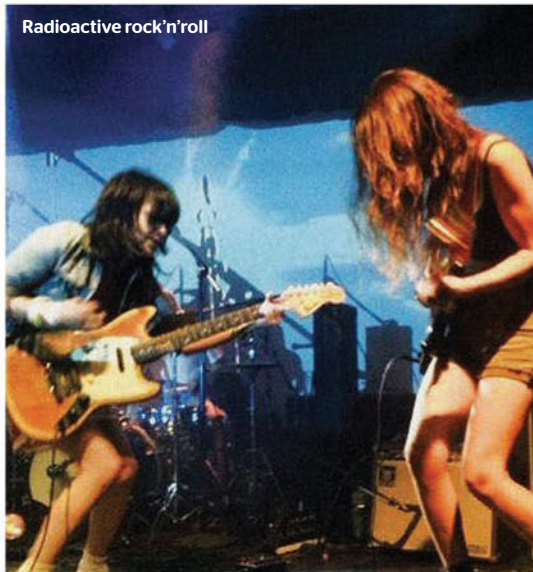
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Radioactive rock'n'roll



Sonic Boom

Garage group Death Valley Girls go nuclear.

Pink radiation. Horror movies. The Number of the Beast. These are just a few of the topics that vocalist/guitarist Bonnie Bloomgarden invokes on Death Valley Girls' second and latest album. All reverb-tank rebound and echo-chamber clang, *Glow in the Dark* sees the Girls—three outta four are real, live females—slide another brick into Phil Spector's fabled "wall of sound" via Larry Schemel's fuzz-blaster-surf-twang guitar, Laura "the Kid" Kelsey's beach-ball toms and Mizz Nikki Pickle's strutting bass grooves. It's glorious girl-group garage rock, but the ladies—and Larry—also want to take you to the disco (on the aptly titled "Disco"), give a shout-out to Satan's favorite area code ("Seis Seis Seis") and offer their own blissfully skewed take on gender equality ("I'm a Man Too").



Death Valley Girls

Glow in the Dark
(Burger Records)

If it helps, imagine the Manson girls holding hands at the Spahn Ranch circa '69, howling some kind of wild incantation while Charlie wanders the desert, pants around his ankles, frying on acid. Or a 1950s UFO flick with flying saucers and stun guns and songs about spells ("Love Spell"), nuclear power (the title track) and the parched wasteland just east of the band's LA hometown ("Death Valley Boogie"). If you want to get pedantic about it, think of DVG's music as an intoxicating smash-up of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, the Cramps, the Dum Dum Girls and the Shangri-Las. Whatever works to help you get there—not that you'll need much, because *Glow in the Dark* will beam you directly to the sweet spot of garage-rock Valhalla all by itself. *J. Bennett*

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Deerhoof

The Magic
(Polyvinyl)

➤ *The Magic's* ludicrously life-affirming eclectic-hash is a discordant din of glam/punk/doo-wop/hip-hop/hair-metal rammed through electronic thingamabobs and spewed spiritedly skyward as though the band's very soul depended on it—perhaps if only to keep pace with its pointy

head. Sing-alongly, head-bangingly heavy revelation spills in "The Devil and His Anarchic Surrealist Retinue" and the riffnificent reetness of "Kafe Mania!" and "Plastic Thrills"; "Little Hollywood" is, like the rest of the album, wreckless noisy ecstasy blasted for the sheer fun of it. *John Payne*



Warthog

Warthog
(Beach Impediment)

➤ New York City's Warthog have created the perfect sonic formula for a more intense version of 1980s hardcore with their new self-titled EP. The vocals are filled with manic desperation, accompanied by feverish drumming and guitar leads that almost sound metallic in the vein of later Poison Idea

tracks. The album opener, "Culture," is the perfect example of how hardcore punk is capable of evolving in sound while still having its roots bound in the '80s. Fans of the Cro-Mags and Agnostic Front shouldn't sleep on this record, which will be one of the most-hyped releases of 2016. *Mike Caiazzo*

FILM RECOMMENDATIONS

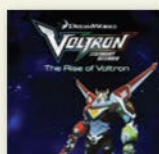


Carnival of Souls

Directed by Herk Harvey
(The Criterion Collection)

➤ The discerning stoner is a connoisseur of high-quality visual stimuli. Expanded consciousness encourages surrealism that's not limited by those brain-cuffed to non-enhanced realities. This 1962 B&W, ultra-low-budgie psycho horror flick works so well precisely because they couldn't

afford special effects—all the better to replicate the dislocation of the dream state without silly splattertudes. The plot's simple: Pretty woman survives car wreck and is followed by spooky zomboids. We won't reveal the eerie denouement here, but this is one generous shiver-giver. *Michael Simmons*



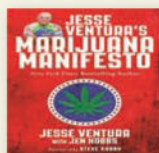
Voltron: Legendary Defender

DreamWorks Animation
(Netflix)

➤ This Netflix reboot of the classic '80s series amps up the quality of the storytelling and animation while staying true to the spirit of the original. A team of misfit space cadets discovers five robot lions that transform into a giant sword-wielding mecha built to defend the universe from the maniacal

Gulra Empire. Strong voice acting (with contributions from Rhys Darby and Steven Yuen) keeps each episode fresh and fun. Fans of the original and young *otakus* alike can enjoy this well-produced product. We suggest enjoying it *with* some well-produced product, too. *Fritz Meier*

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Jesse Ventura's Marijuana Manifesto

Jesse Ventura, Jen Hobbs, Steve Kubby
(Skyhorse Publishing)

➤ Consider this book a logical extension of *High Times*, featuring Ventura's seasoned analysis of pot politics and cannabis conspiracies. *Manifesto* reveals the secrets behind the federal government's unconstitutional bust of Silk Road founder Ross Ulbricht, the DEA's manipulation of the drug war, and the frightening reality of the

private prison machine driving our electoral process. Even legalization has a dark side, as an unholy alliance between the FDA's cannabinoid patents and greedy Big Pharma scheme to monopolize marijuana. But it's not all ganja gloom, as Ventura touts the latest nutritional, medicinal and economic wonders of weed. *Mark Miller*

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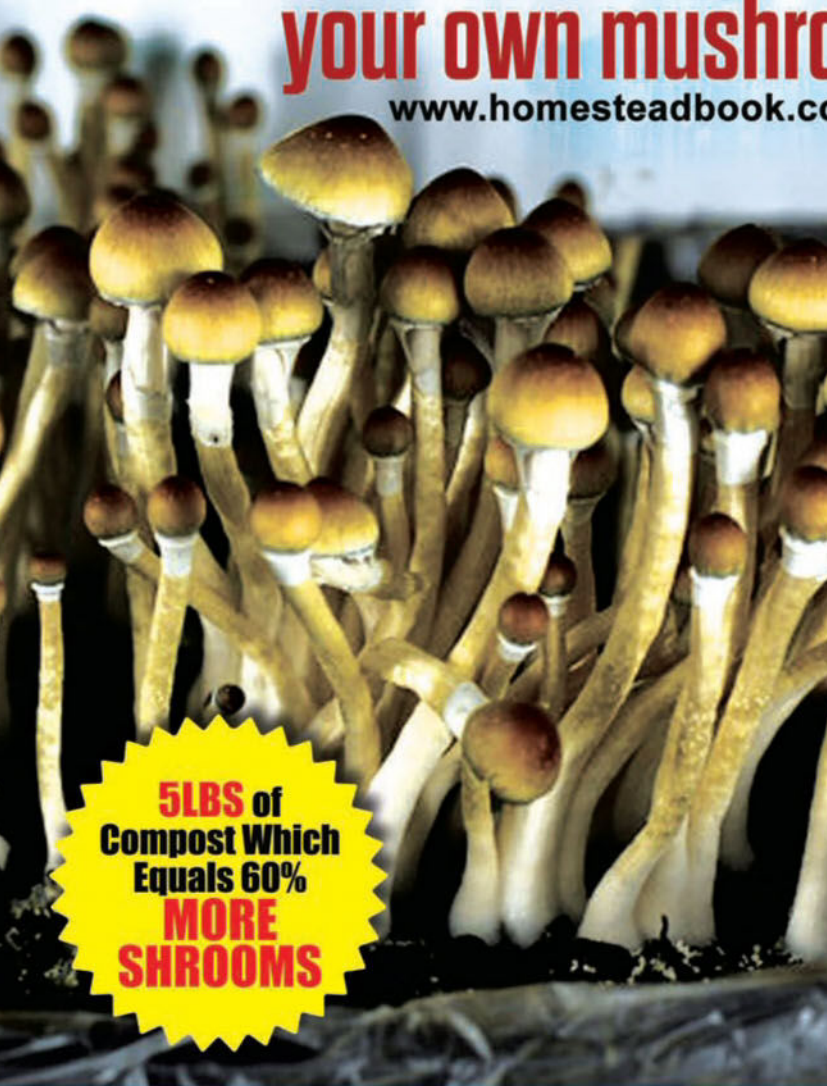
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Shark Dank

A growing population of ganjapreneurs are looking for cash to get their fledgling businesses off the ground. Some of the plucky have found that the green revolution will be televised.



Karen Paull and Wendy Robbins presiding.

THERE ARE TRADITIONAL ways to find seed money for your cannabis enterprise, and then there's the 21st-century way: by appearing on a reality-TV show.

Taking a cue from ABC's successful *Shark Tank*, filmmaker Wendy Robbins and Broadway producer Karen Paull have created *The Marijuana Show*, an online series in which contestants pitch their companies and products to a panel of investors.

"Use a booming voice," Robbins instructed the hopefuls at a recent New York casting call. "If you want \$1.5 million, I gotta remember you."

And lo, the voices *did* boom. But while a loud set of pipes can draw attention during the auditions, it takes preparation, savvy and a compelling idea to land a spot on the show. Once they get that far, contestants have a chance to score the real prize: big bucks to jumpstart their business.

It turns out to be compelling viewing. *The Marijuana Show's* creators bring a certain *joie de vivre* to the proceedings, which might otherwise get bogged down in the money-grubbing nuts and bolts of

venture capitalism.

Diverging somewhat from its *Shark Tank* inspiration, *The Marijuana Show* focuses more on the aspirants themselves than on the money-bags patrons. Today's audition includes Ian and Alex, two young ganjapreneurs from Brooklyn. Their product, a vaporizer the size and shape of a credit card, is "perfect for New York, because it's so discreet." If chosen, they plan to ask the investors for "between \$200,000 and \$500,000." These guys have a decent shot because they already have a patent, which is no small thing in the ganja biz.

Shanel Lindsay, an attorney from Boston (who happened to help write the Massachusetts Marijuana Legalization Initiative, up for voter approval in November) touts her company's precision decarboxylator, a handy item the size of a Big Gulp intended for patients who prepare their medication at home. ("You're called back for sure!" Robbins enthuses.)

Other candidates follow: a filmmaker who makes "THC comedies"; a med-pot ambassador who hopes to bring the green revolution to Puerto Rico; the CEO of a social media startup; two young men

"Every city is different. Even when we have 200 people pitch, you never have the same idea."

working to bring communities of color into the cannabis industry.

It's a diverse group, which is probably no accident. "I'm really tired of seeing mostly white men," Robbins says. "No offense, white guys, but really—white men are 95 percent of what's pitched to us. So we would love, love, *love* to change that."

The show has traveled all over the country in an effort to find talented and telegenic contestants. "Every city is different," says Paull. "Even when we have 200 people pitch, you never have the same idea."

Indeed, the show reveals the vibrancy and breadth of this young industry, where new ideas and the innovators behind them are both on the rise. Like the industry itself, *The Marijuana Show* is poised for expansion. Season 2, which debuted on iTunes and Amazon in July, disbursed some \$13 million in investment capital to the winners; Season 3 will see investors shovel out another \$20 million.

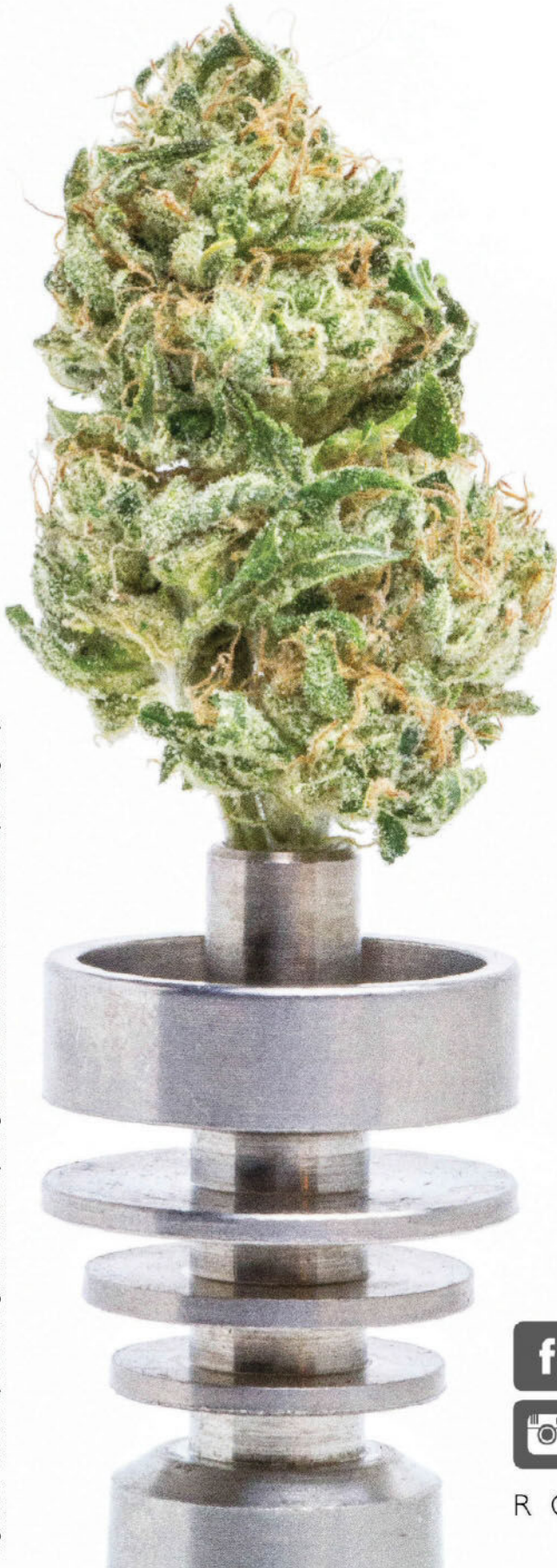
So how did today's batch of contestants do? "I think we've seen some really good ideas, but I think some are more fleshed out than others," says Robbins. "New York being a nascent market, I'm not surprised there are more startups than usual."

After the tryouts, I ask *The Marijuana Show's* creators how they got *their* seed money. "We met a guy at a bar, we had a drink, and we put a number on a napkin," Paull reveals. "And he said okay. We didn't have to go through *any* of this."

Robbins jumps in: "Which is wild, right? We got a million-dollar investment. It's crazy! We're really blessed." 🌿

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MARKET ANALYSIS

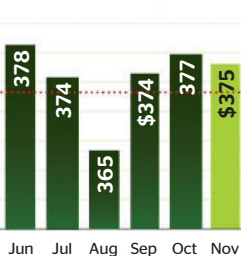
Prices by the ounce

The US Price Index experienced the biggest gain in November, finishing \$7 above its previous month's average and \$15 above its year-to-date average. The Mids Index closed the month \$14 above its YTD average. The Kind Index held steady. Gorilla Glue made its debut in the top five submitted strains at just \$312 an ounce.

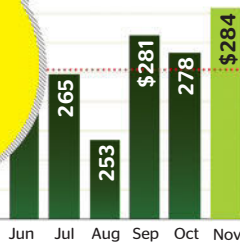
US Price Index
YTD Average: \$313



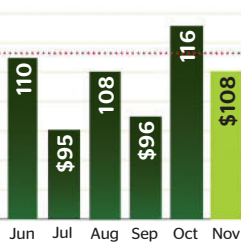
Kind Index
YTD Average: \$373



Mids Index
YTD Average: \$270



Schwag Index
YTD Average: \$110



(Hydro)
"Keep this stuff in a jar."
-Nashville, TN

TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
Alabama	Birmingham	Girl Scout Cookies	\$360
Arizona	Phoenix	Sweet Tooth	360
Arkansas	Little Rock	Grape Ape	375
California	Mendocino	Outdoor	130
Colorado	Denver	Skywalker OG	200
Connecticut	Hartford	Headband	360
Delaware	Newark	Sour Diesel	380
Florida	Orlando	Bubba Kush	370
Georgia	Atlanta	Northern Lights	350
Hawaii	Maui	Durban Poison	300
Illinois	Chicago	Girl Scout Cookies	330
Indiana	Indianapolis	Gorilla Glue	300
Louisiana	New Orleans	Critical+	380
Maine	Portland	Blue Dream	320
Maryland	Baltimore	Sweet Tooth	350
Massachusetts	Boston	JillyBean	360
Michigan	Traverse City	Gorilla Glue #4	260
Minnesota	Minneapolis	Super Silver Haze	320
Mississippi	Oxford	Sour Diesel	360
Missouri	St. Louis	Blue Dream	375
Montana	Bozeman Helena	White Widow Strawberry Cough	280 300
Nevada	Las Vegas	Granddaddy Purps	380
New York	Brooklyn New York	Deadhead OG Three Kings	380 400
North Carolina	Wilson	Trainwreck	300
Ohio	Columbus	Death Star	375
Oregon	Portland	Kosher Kush	200
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh	Confidential Cookies	250
Tennessee	Nashville	Hydro	500
Texas	Austin	Jack Herer	360
Utah	Salt Lake City	Sour Diesel	360
Vermont	Burlington	Girl Scout Cookies	330
Virginia	Richmond	Sensi Star	350
Washington	Seattle	Blue Dream	300
Wisconsin	Madison	East Coast Sour Diesel	360
INTERNATIONAL			
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Extracts, Budder Chips
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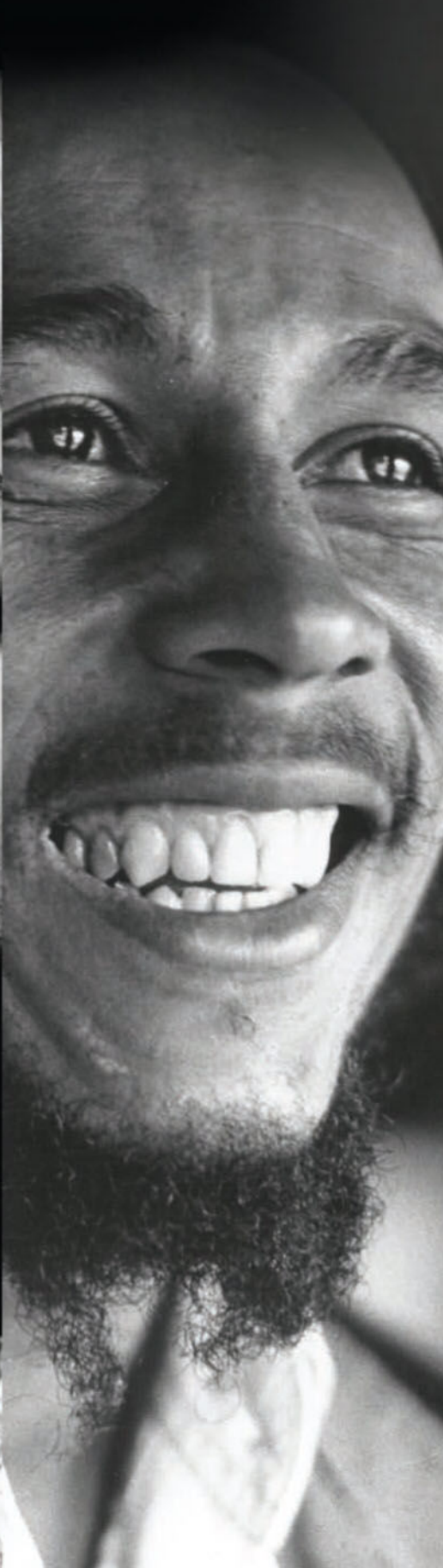


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MOXIE 710, Live Resin Cake Budder
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Daytime Highs

The first-ever all-concentrates Cup was a crucible that demonstrated the power of cannabis to unite. *By Mike Hughes*



Cali Kush Farms provided multiple dabbing stations throughout the weekend.

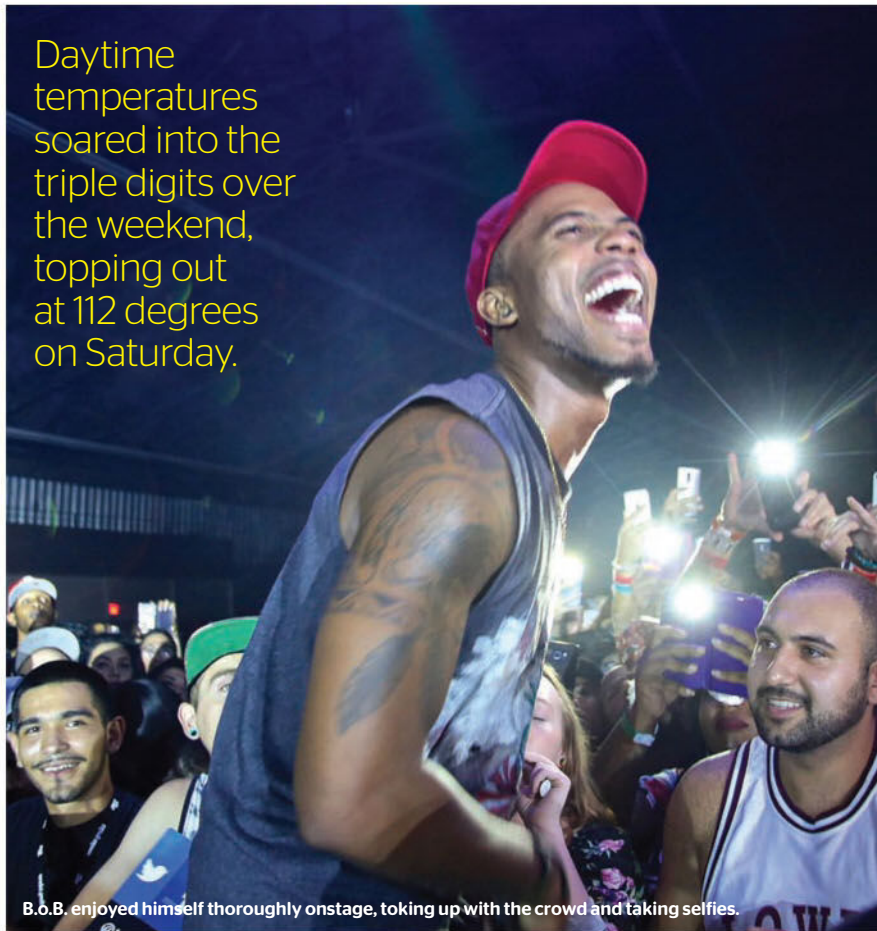
In 2013, there was a scramble. Just days before the High Times Medical Cannabis Cup was set to open at LA Center Studios in downtown Los Angeles, local authorities forced us from the venue—despite the fact that we'd held the Medical Cannabis Cup there the previous year. Our emergency effort to relocate to nearby Glendale Studios was quickly snuffed out by that town's city council. This was at the height of LA's crackdown on medical marijuana: The dispensaries that had proliferated in record numbers were being attacked through increasingly prohibitive zoning ordinances and an aggressive campaign of intimidation. It was in this atmosphere that *HT* editor-in-chief Dan Skye and I visited a dozen venues over two days, looking for a last-minute home for the Cup. Finally, we stumbled on the NOS Events Center in San Bernardino.

Considering that we'd just been run out of LA and were attempting

to stage a massive cannabis festival in 48 hours, it would have been easy to turn us away. But NOS said yes, the show went on, and thanks to the remarkable resiliency of our vendors and attendees, together we pulled off the near-impossible.

That Cup in 2013 was a watershed for this company. It established an ideal of perseverance through unity that is essential to High Times events. It also served as a reminder that, despite the progress of marijuana-law reform, the dark forces of pot prohibition are still very much alive.

The 2013 Cup was on my mind as I left Southern California following the Medical Cannabis Concentrates Cup, held from July 22 to 24, which presented its own challenges in the form of extreme heat and a headliner who literally dropped the mic just a few songs into his set (more on that below). It also served as a reminder of the cannabis



Daytime temperatures soared into the triple digits over the weekend, topping out at 112 degrees on Saturday.

B.o.B. enjoyed himself thoroughly onstage, toking up with the crowd and taking selfies.



A tower of concentrates, courtesy of Gorilla Wax

community's unflappability, no matter the obstacles.

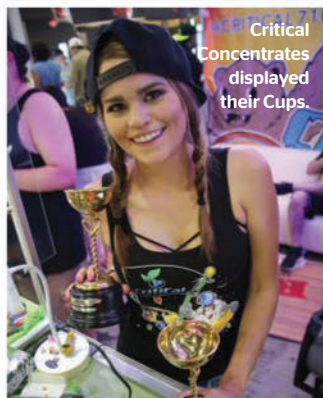
This July, we returned to the NOS Events Center—our oasis in the Inland Empire—for the sixth time since 2013. However, this was our first summertime event at NOS, and our oasis was blisteringly hot.

The daytime temperatures soared into the triple digits over the weekend, topping out at 112 degrees on Saturday. Despite the doors to the event opening later in the afternoon, Cup-goers appeared stunned by the oppressive heat, jockeying for place under misters that were positioned throughout the grounds and making variations of the same joke about feeling too much like wax being dropped on a red-hot nail.

Those jokes were particularly apropos for our first-ever Cup devoted entirely to concentrates. While a Medical Cannabis Cup competition usually covers flowers, concentrates and edibles, the Medical Cannabis Concentrates Cup involved strictly extracts. Expert judges took on 12 different categories, including solvents, non-solvents, vape-pen cartridges and more. And the festival was a dab lover's dream (minus the heat), with vendors offering up rig rips and vape-pen hits of the finest hash in Southern California.

Fortunately for those attempting to avoid the sun beating down on the outdoor vending area, High Times took over two massive buildings onsite and brought the medicating indoors. After cooling down, attendees lined up to try out the latest goods from companies like BAMF Extractions and the Downtown Patient Collective, while Best Booth winner Puffco kept the giveaways going all weekend long.

Cup-goers braved the heat to attend a variety of seminars over our three days in San Bernardino, soaking up information at panel discussions on "How to Get a Pot Job," "The Evolving Edibles Industry" and California's



Critical Concentrates displayed their Cups.



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Advanced Nutrients had the goods for your garden.



On Friday night, Ozomatli took the stage.



The OGX Digital Rosin Press won for Best Product.



Danny Danko led a panel on growing for concentrates.

upcoming legalization initiative, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act. Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko performed the Herculean task of hosting three seminars covering all angles of the emerging concentrates industry, including growing for extracts and the legality of dabs.

As day one drew to a close, attendees were treated to a scorching set by LA's own Ozomatli, whose unique Latin/reggae sound was particularly resonant in their masterful cover of Bob Marley's "Stir It Up."

The heat was on again for Saturday, July 23, with the mostly unshaded outdoor portions of the venue feeling even hotter than the triple-digit temps. Yet despite the heat, Cup-goers took it slow and stayed hydrated, then showed up hyped and en masse for the concert featuring B.o.B and Lil Wayne. HT gave B.o.B—who recently performed at our Michigan Cup in June—gave a stellar performance, opening the show with a high-energy set. Then things got weird.

Cup headliner Lil Wayne took the stage and, after performing just a couple of songs, bizarrely shouted in the direction of his team offstage, "Don't you ever, ever, ever ask me to do this shit again!" After a brief, half-hearted attempt to continue the concert, the rapper abruptly dropped the mic, walked offstage and left the venue without explanation. While

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Crockett Family Farms grabbed the Cup for Best Medically Infused Product.



A.H.H.S. West Hollywood and Cali Sift Co. took the Cup for Best Solvent, Compound Concentrate.

Lil Wayne drops the mic before exiting the stage.



Weezy had a contract with High Times to perform for an hour, he delivered roughly four songs over a total of 10 minutes.

It took a moment for the surreal departure to sink in—even for Wayne’s DJ, who remained onstage, apparently unaware that the rapper had walked off for good. When the confused crowd realized this wasn’t just theatrical flair, they booed Wayne mercilessly—not surprisingly, considering that many had traveled long distances to see the rapper perform. We have no idea why Lil Wayne chose to end his performance and have received no explanation from his team. There is no evidence to support the speculation on social media and other outlets that the walkout was a response to an unenthusiastic crowd. But, of course, there’s no telling what was going on in Wayne’s head.

Given the disappointment of Lil Wayne’s meltdown and the oppressive heat, it would have been easy to write off the final day of the Cup. However, the Southern California cannabis community proved a buoyant bunch, showing up in droves when the doors opened for day three. And as the sun set on the final day of the Cup, a crowd gathered in the Orange Pavilion, eagerly awaiting the start of the awards ceremony. It was a final reminder that when the cannabis community stands together, it’s awfully hard to knock us down. 🌿

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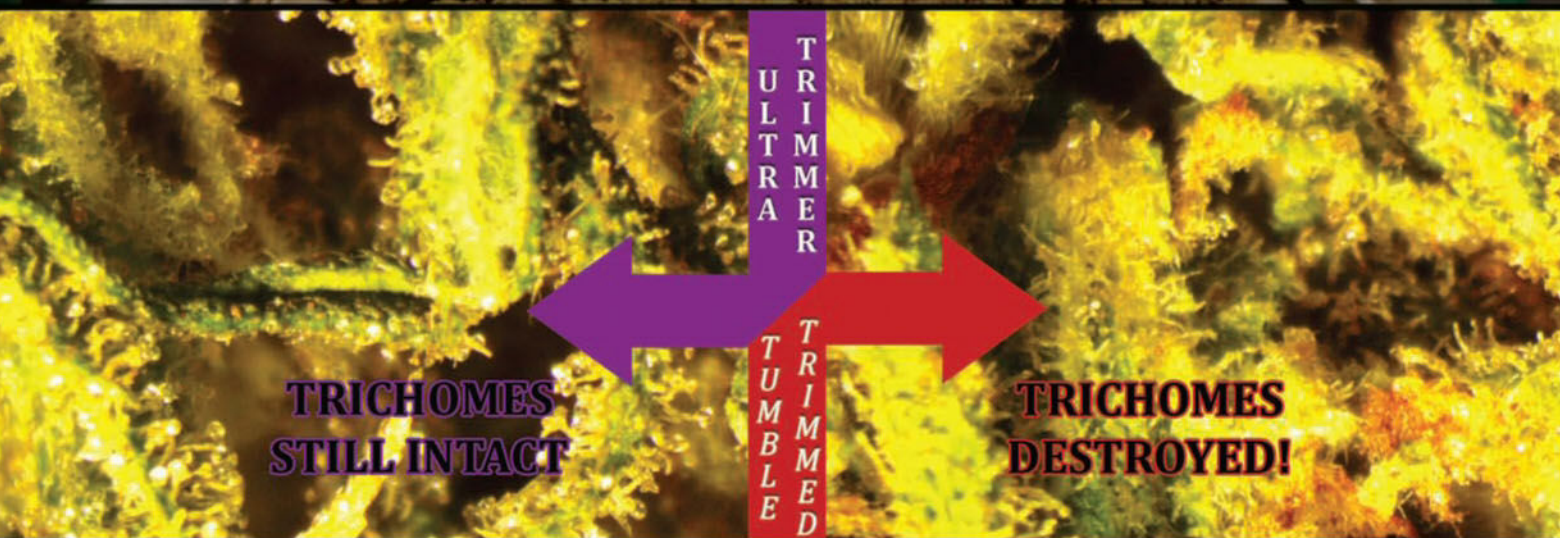
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BEST PRODUCT

1st Place Dr. OGX
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3rd Place BAMF Extractions

BEST BOOTH

1st Place Puffco
2nd Place Whoopi & Maya
3rd Place Source Vapes

BEST VAPORIZER

1st Place: The Puffco Plus, by Puffco
2nd Place Source Vapes
3rd Place [tie] Gold Drop Co. and the Dr. Dabber Aurora Vaporizer

BEST VAPE-PEN CARTRIDGE, SATIVA

1st Place Cali-O Kingpen, by 710 Kingpen/Greenwolf
2nd Place Juicy Fruit, by Legion of Bloom
3rd Place Sour Purple, by Eureka Vapor

BEST VAPE-PEN CARTRIDGE, INDICA

1st Place Skywalker Kingpen, by 710 Kingpen/Greenwolf
2nd Place Exodus Cheese, by Legion of Bloom
3rd Place Northern Lights, by Eureka Vapor

Cannabis Cup Results

BEST VAPE-PEN CARTRIDGE, HYBRID

1st Place: Lemon Chem Kingpen, by 710 Kingpen/Greenwolf
2nd Place Key Lime, by Sol Selects
3rd Place Vegan Buddha Velvet, by Vegan Buddha with New Amsterdam Naturals

BEST MEDICALLY INFUSED PRODUCT

1st Place: Crockett's Family Strawberry Banana Jewels, by Crockett Family Farms
2nd Place Headfruit Rosin, by Legion of Bloom
3rd Place Moon Rocks, by Farmers Reserve/Vapenit Xtracts

BEST NON-SOLVENT, ROSIN TECH

1st Place: Strawberry Banana Flower Rosin, by A.H.H.S. West Hollywood and Cali Sift Co.
2nd Place The OG Kush Story, by Cali Kush Farms, the Rosin Brothers and Greenwolf LA
3rd Place Strawberry Banana Rosin, by Crockett Family Farms

BEST NON-SOLVENT, WATER HASH & KIEF

1st Place: Cookies & Cream Cubantech Drysift, by Exotic Genetix with the Cuban Grower & the Cuban Hash Queen

2nd Place Vegan Buddha Velvet Kush,

by Vegan Buddha

3rd Place GoldWalker Full-Melt Hashish (Cali Gold 73u x Skywalker OG 73u), by Cali Gold Genetics

BEST CBD CONCENTRATES

1st Place: Harley Quinn Live Resin Shatter, by Loud Pack/Greenwolf/Crockett Family Farms
2nd Place Mai Tai Cookies Live Resin, by WHTC with Unregistered and Terraform Genetics
3rd Place CBD Isolate, by King Moses and Top Shelf Extracts

BEST SOLVENT, COMPOUND CONCENTRATE

1st Place: Strawberry Smoothie, by A.H.H.S. West Hollywood and Dabbalicious
2nd Place Apple Crumble, by Sol Selects
3rd Place Sour OG, by Eureka Vapor

BEST SOLVENT, PURE EXTRACT

1st Place: Lemon Medley Shatter, by Kush Company and Nature's Lab Extracts
2nd Place Strawberry Banana Goo Stardust THCa Sugar Sap, by Rollinghill Famers with Blue River and Stardust

3rd Place Maui Wau, by Eureka Vapor

BEST SOLVENT, SINGLE-STRAIN EXTRACT: SATIVA

1st Place: Purple Tangie Live Resin Crumble, by Greenwolf/Moxie/Zeinstein
2nd Place Crockett Haze, by Crockett Family Farms and Gold Coast Extracts
3rd Place Lemon Drop, by Dr. Greenthumb

BEST SOLVENT, SINGLE-STRAIN EXTRACT: INDICA

1st Place: Sour Kosher, by Greenwolf/Moxie/Zeinstein
2nd Place Bob Ross Budder Chips, by Crockett Family Farms with Gold Coast Extracts
3rd Place Capital OG Budder, by Critical Concentrates with Los Angeles Kush

BEST SOLVENT, SINGLE-STRAIN EXTRACT: HYBRID

1st Place: Strawberry Lemonade Live Resin Shatter, by Wolfpack/Loud Pack/DNA
2nd Place Purple Mint Cookies Live Resin, by Herbal Solutions with Loyalty Extracts
3rd Place Lemon Skunk Banana Sherbert Budder Chips, by Gold Coast Extracts with Crockett Family Farms

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ADVANCED NUTRIENTS PIONEERS MARIJUANA GROWING EDUCATION

Advanced Nutrients has recently launched **Grow Med University (GMU)**, a free, self-directed online hydroponics course that reveals the latest techniques, tips, tricks, and technology used by the most competitive marijuana growers in the world.

Step-by-step tutorial videos, white papers, efficacy reports, and informative scientific articles allow any grower with an Internet connection to hone their skills and help produce their best harvest yet, free of charge.

Why Marijuana Growing Education Is a Top Priority for Advanced Nutrients

The medical marijuana industry is growing every minute. Legal marijuana is the fastest-growing industry in the U.S. and a slew of other businesses are jumping on the bandwagon as well. At present, 23 U.S. states allow medical-marijuana use, while 7 have legislation pending to issue licenses for it.

4 states and Washington, D.C. have legalized cannabis outright, while another California referendum in 2016 will allow recreational use in a state that was the first to permit medical marijuana use way back in 1996. It is estimated that medical marijuana is already a multibillion-dollar industry (without counting recreational sales).

While a great deal of information and misinformation appears daily on the Internet, novices and more advanced growers alike are always looking for a source of reliable information which can serve to improve their yields, both in terms of quality and quantity. A whole community of growers inhabit the growers' forums and are always looking to perfect their growing skills, without having to wade through hours and hours of irrelevant or misleading forum posts.

GMU is a bold step in a better direction, and by elevating the general level of education among growers, the quality of marijuana, especially as medicine, will skyrocket worldwide. This isn't just for connoisseurs. It's for children with epilepsy, as well as adults suffering from the effects of chemotherapy, chronic pain, and glaucoma. Thousands of YouTube videos help document the impressive results of therapeutic cannabis use.

Grow Med University is a course representing the cumulative experience of scores of the most competitive growing experts. From day one, it was envisioned as a community-driven resource, providing much needed knowledge to the medical-marijuana community. If you have a passion for hydroponics and growing marijuana to help patients get rid of illness and pain, then **Grow Med University** is for you.



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2016 Vapor Pen Review



This year's review is all about the accolades: We scrupulously performed our dank diligence to help you decide on the best vaporizer pen for concentrates in a variety of categories. Whether you're looking for stealth or health, big hits or big taste, an excellent design or high value, this year's 2016 vapor pen review has something to please every dabber. *By Jen Bernstein*

A lot has changed with the way we choose to vape since *High Times* published the first Vapor Pen Buyer's Guide four years ago. When portable vaporizers first came to market we were less concerned with function and features, and more enthralled by the fact that there was a new way to get high on the go. And, for some of us who have to have the latest and greatest gadgets, vapes became something of a status symbol.

Vaporizer manufacturers also caught on—putting valuable R&D dollars into fine-tuning consumer demands. In the years since, we've seen changes in everything from healthiness (atomizers and their coils are made from cleaner materials like quartz or ceramic); stealthiness (vaporizers can be as skinny as pencil, flashy/blinky lights and

loud colors are a no-no) to just how big or tasty a hit is possible.

Coordinating this year's 2016 Vapor Pen Review we gathered 30 judges, 10+ grams of wax, and a bunch of lung power and stamina to review more than 60+ concentrate vaporizers. Using Scorebook (*High Times'* official Cannabis Cup scoring software) judges rated the following out of five: Vapor Production, Hit, Stealth, Health, Portability, Innovation, Style/Design, Taste, Value, Durability, Packaging/Kit, Features and Ease of Use.

Here at *High Times* we've also adapted with the ever-changing marketplace, so instead of naming just one vape pen the best overall, we've awarded 25 vapes the best for what they do—to help you decide just which vape is right for you. Happy vaping!



DR. DABBER AURORA

\$99.95

vaporation.com

High Times' love affair with the Dr. Dabber Aurora continues for the second straight year. This is a vape pen to rule them all, thanks to its unique magnetic parts, sleek matte-black finish, and a kit that includes multiple atomizers—from dual ceramic rods to a ceramic heater—to best handle the differences among your favorite concentrates. "Big hits," along with a "stealthy design" and "cool magnetic feature," make the Aurora a "crazy-good vape pen," according to our judges, who especially hailed the coil and different temperature settings.

Best Packaging/Kit, Best Durability, Best Innovation, Best Stealth, Best Taste



CLOUT DL1 PEN

\$50

cloutproducts.com

Living up to its "down-low" product name, the DL impressed us with its discreet design and ease of use. A "great bang for your buck," according to one judge, the Clout DL1 uses a dual quartz coil in a ceramic cup with a coil cap to produce a "nice, strong hit."

Best Value, Best Hit



EVOL APE STEALTH KIT

\$69.99

vapeapeusa.com

This vape-pen kit offers a "kind price," a "nice, cool design" and a "slick pencil-case-style container," but it delivered a "bad taste" and a pull that one judge found "up-setting." Although the Evol Ape is "easy to use" and its "double coil provides a good hit," we're holding out for a vape that can do all that and preserve flavor.

Best Value, Best Ease of Use



EXECUTIVE

by Dank Fung Extracts

\$179.99

dankfungextracts.com

You know you've attained baller status when you can whip out the Executive by Dank Fung. Plated in 24-karat gold, this vape commands a high price, but the judges admired its fountain-pen-style appearance, lithe design and clever pen cap. "Durable," "strong," "easy to use" and providing a "nice hit," the Executive also comes in its own ultra-swanky fur-lined box.

Best Durability, Best Style/Design



PUFFCO+

by Puffco

\$99.99

puffco.com

In 2105, we awarded the original PuffCo Pro our highest honor as Best Vape Pen, and we were tempted to do likewise with the brand-new PuffCo+, which scored off the charts thanks to its innovations, including a "super-handly" dab-tool "dart" hidden on the underside of the mouthpiece and a coilless ceramic oven that evenly distributes your dab, producing a "stellar cloud of vape" that also "preserves the oils' flavor profile." One judge called it "revolutionary," while another said simply, "This PuffCo changed my life."

Best Innovation, Best Style/Design, Best Vapor Production, Best Health, Best Taste



Science editor Sirius J oversees as a judge fills a vapor pen with concentrates.

We gathered 30 judges, 10+ grams of wax, and a bunch of lung power and stamina to review more than 60+ concentrate vaporizers.

**LINX HYPNOS**

\$75

linxvapor.com

This “sleek silver pen” was “easy to use” and offers up a “good, smooth hit,” according to our expert panel. Overall, both of the Linx pens we tested were well received, drawing plaudits for their “vapor production and flavor,” as well as their size and portability.

Best Vapor Production**SILVER SERIES WITH GLASS TOPPER***by subHerbanArt*

\$150

subherbanart.com

A “unique design” sets this subHerbanArt vape pen apart from the pack, especially its “cool Grateful Dead ‘stealie’ glass topper mouthpiece.” One judge enjoyed the experience of getting “totally dabbled by the Dead,” and the panel also appreciated the Pelican-style hard-shell travel case.

Best Style/Design, Best Packaging/Kit, Best Health**SOURCE ORB XL,***by Source Vapes*

\$89.95

sourcevapes.com

Our panel is still coughing from the triple-coil “monster hits” of the Source Orb XL. This “beast” of a vape pen may feel a little “heavy in the hand,” but it’s “well constructed,” with atomizers that can hold up to a gram of concentrate, and will produce huge clouds due to its unique variable airflow system.

Best Vapor Production, Best Hit, Best Durability**PARAGON***by CloudPenz*

\$99.99

cloudpenz.com

This “unique” vape pen scored high marks for its construction, sturdiness and stealth—plus it provided “super hits” from a deep, enclosed chamber. While no one on the panel had heard of the Paragon before, the judges “loved it” for its “dense clouds” and “concealable” nature.

Best Vapor Production, Best Durability, Best Stealth**FOGPEN***by Myster*

\$80

getmyster.com

Our panel was impressed by the FogPen’s double-quartz-coil atomizer, which is enclosed in a clear chamber and concealed by a pen cap when not in use. This vape got high marks in areas like stealth and design (“So realistic and cool”; “the pen design is stealthy”; “a nice chamber where you can see the vapor fill up”), but it failed to impress the judges in several others (“didn’t taste great”; “was hard to pull”).

Best Style/Design, Best Stealth**CLOUD PEN 3.0***by CloudPenz*

\$99.99

vapornation.com

Our panel appreciated the Cloud Pen 3.0’s slightly larger size and double coil, and also praised it for its “very big hits” that “taste really good.” We’ve seen this vape pen in every year of our review, but it’s worth noting that CloudPenz continues to put out a “good-quality vape” that is both “reliable and consistent.”

Best Vapor Production**DR. DABBER LIGHT**

\$49.95

drdabber.com

Good things do come in small packages, as the Dr. Dabber Light proved in this year’s review. Its compact nature led judges to call it a “stealthy little number” that’s the “perfect size to fit in your pocket” or take “into concerts or on a trip.” On top of scoring big on portability, the Dr. Dabber Light wowed our panel with its “big hits” and ease of use.

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SOURCE VOLT
by Source Vapes
\$119.95
sourcevapes.com

Our panel of experts overwhelmingly declared the three-coiled Source Volt as this year's "biggest hitter," with "huge, massive clouds" that repeatedly knocked them on their ass. Other judges' comments included "really enjoy the pen"; "tons of settings to get the perfect vape"; and a single-word panegyric: "Dabbed!" In fact, the only criticism concerned the "bulky and heavy" battery pack.

Best Vapor Production, Best Hit, Best Features



GALAXY
by KandyPens
\$99.95
kandypens.com

Judges called the Galaxy a "solid, well-hitting" vaporizer that comes "nicely designed" with a "pretty star field" and delivers hits that are sure to blast you into orbit. Dual quartz rods, a titanium coil and a deep quartz-crystal chamber all make the Galaxy a dependable vape for any occasion.

Best Hit, Best Style/Design
Best Vaporizer



DR. DABBER GHOST
\$69.95
drdabber.com

Thanks to its low-heat coils and "Titanium Technology," the Dr. Dabber Ghost heats concentrates slowly for a big, tasty hit. Although not quite the "quality of the Aurora," this sister pen impressed the judges for its "nice pull," "solid feel" and "sturdy, portable size." A "great product" and "good-value" vape, the Dr. Dabber Ghost once again proved a favorite of the High Times Vape Pen Review.

Best Hit, Best Value, Best Portability, Best Packaging/Kit



LINX HYPNOS ZERO
\$77.99
linxvapor.com

The Linx Hypnos Zero "rocked from the first hit" and drew praise for its construction, size and portability. Judges also appreciated the "great taste," with "fantastic airflow" from the "unique ceramic chamber" and glass mouthpiece.

Best Value, Best Portability, Best Taste



DANK FUNG EXPRESS KIT
\$99.99
dankfungextracts.com

This "high-quality" vape may be "a little bulky," but it produced "large and great-tasting hits." While the Dank Fung Express may not be the stealthiest of pens (one judge likened its appearance to a large "magic marker"), our panel felt that this was ultimately offset by the "smooth hits" from its efficient ceramic atomizer.

Best Taste, Best Hit, Best Durability



ELEVEN PEN
by Vapor Brothers
\$59.99
vaporbrothers.com

This "generic" offering was "pretty standard" as far as vape pens go. The judges agreed that it "functioned well" and "ripped hard," but it didn't deliver the greatest taste and was a little "harsh" to boot. On the plus side, the Eleven Pen has a "nice feel" and comes with a "cool case."

Best Hit



OOZI PEN AND DOME KIT
by Clout
\$64.99
cloutproducts.com

Clout's Oozi Pen and Dome Kit inspired praise design-wise, with a "good, solid glass globe" that sits over a dual ceramic coil to produce an "all-around good pull" and "decent hit." However, the judges split on durability because of the dome's fragility as well as on stealth, since the vapor filling in the dome is not by any means discreet.

Best Hit, Best Style/Design Best Value

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SIRIUS

by Pulsar

\$49.99

pulsarvaporizers.com

The Sirius can heat up to some serious temps (842°F) in the click of a button to produce a “great hit” that “tastes awesome” from its ceramic-plated atomizer. One judge opined that he got a “value-sized hit for a value-priced pen,” while another said he thought it was “high end.” Curiously, the Sirius felt “large and clumsy” to some judges, but “nice and small” to others—which just goes to show that portability is often in the eye (and hand) of the beholder!

Best Value, Best Taste, Best Hit

DONUTS

by KandyPens

\$99.95

kandypens.com

Though judges found the Donuts design to be a similar design of other concentrate vaporizers, one commented “if it’s not broke, why fix it?” And, rightfully so. Donuts by KandyPens has some great features like an automatic shut-off after 10 seconds and three different temperature settings. Judges enjoyed the “tasty hits” from the non-combusting ceramic chamber.

Best Health, Best Features



THE VAPED MICRO NECTAR COLLECTOR KIT

\$130

nectarcollector.org

Impressive for its “humongous hits” and “really beautiful glass chamber” attachment, the Vaped Micro Nectar Collector rated high in vapor production, style/design and innovation. Some judges cried “madness!” about the “dab pens on dab rigs” and warned that it’s “not ideal to use outside of the home.” Overall, however, this “vape-pen bong” made up in “coolness” what it lacked in affordability and stealth.

Best Hit, Best Style/Design, Best Vapor Production, Best Innovation



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ORB SLIM

by Source Vapes

\$49.95

sourcevapes.com

When it comes to value, a comment like "great vapor rips for the price!" should end our review right there—but while some judges got great rips, others claimed that "it didn't hit well" and had a "weak pull." Our panel agreed that the Source Orb Slim did stay true to its name, but they still preferred the larger Source Vapes pens.

Best Value



ORB 3 PREMIUM KIT

by Source Vapes

\$79.95

sourcevapes.com

With seven different atomizers to suit every dab-on-the-go situation, the Source Orb 3 "hit like a champ," according to our judges, who also loved its "cool design" and a package that comes with a "ton of coils." If you're looking for plenty of dabbing options and the perfect combination of size, atomizer and temperature, definitely check out this Premium Kit, which gives you all of that and more.

Best Innovation, Best Packaging/Kit, Best Style/Design

OG FOUR 2.0 LAVA-QUARTZ COIL

by This Thing Rips

\$74.20

thisthingrips.com

The OG Four 2.0 really does "rip," as the company's name promises, but what suffers is the taste. "Ouch, it burns!" and "hits very harshly," cried the judges, who were literally left with a bad taste in their mouths. However, this pen's clear orange chamber, "sleek design" and "cool packaging" were all an "added bonus to how high you can get."

Best Value, Best Style/Design

Pen-Ultimate List

Grecco Science G Pen Elite	Vape Ape Premium	Ascent
Stratus Budy Pen	Vape Ape USA Stealth Kit	FlytLab H2OFlo
Linx Hypnos	Vape Ape USA Reclaimer Kit	CloudPen
This Thing Rips	VaporTech Baker	PuffCo+
Project One People Orbit	VaporTech Dabster	G Pen G Pro
Extreme	Clout	Quickdraw 500-DLX
Pulsar APX	SmokingVapor.com	Myster Fogpen
Pulsar Ninja V4	Horizon	VaporBrothers
Nectar Collector	Magic-Flight Maud-Dib	Dabs Basement Pearl
Dr. Dabber	Source Vapes	Dabs Basement Blazer
KandyPens Donuts	CloudPenz 1.0	Dabs Basement Lava
subHerban Art	CloudPenz 2.0	Dabs Basement Inception
	The Kind Pen Dream	E-Wax Pen
		Dank Fung Extracts

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POT AND THE NFL

BY NATHAN JACKSON



No sport produces the kind of physical and psychological trauma that professional football does. That's why former players are calling on the National Football League to recognize the benefits of cannabis.

PLAYER INTERVIEWS BY DAN SKYE

Cannabis and the NFL are joined at the hip. Estimates suggest that more than half of the league's players use it. That's roughly 1,000 of the best head-smashers in the world. However, half of my high-school football team didn't smoke weed; maybe only 20 percent did. In college, it got a little higher—probably 40 percent. But in the NFL, it's over 50 percent. So what accounts for the increase?

To come to an honest conclusion—one that would benefit both the league and its players—the stigma must be detached from this discussion. The stigma is that if you use cannabis, you're a loser, essentially. A burnout.

Of course, there are no losers in the NFL. These athletes represent the cream of the crop, the strongest and fastest. Persevering in the football world requires a mastery of pain management. Football involves constant, daily, painful trauma to your physical body. And pain serves a purpose on planet Earth. It directs attention to a problem that must be attended to.

But football says ha-ha-ha to all that. Here, pain is a choice. Pain is a hurdle. Pain is pleasure. Football players become sadistic, masochistic pain-seekers who push through every "No Thru Street" sign and every "Cliff Ahead" sign and every "Stop, Fucking STOP!" sign to appease the demands of the US football-industrial complex. Enduring football pain is a path to salvation in America. So goes the journey—to each man his own approach. Football players cannot stop. That's the point. They're doing this for you!

And so the athletes who make up the NFL are an excellent field to study when it comes to brain trauma. Because it's not just brain trauma—it's repetitive brain trauma. Smash, smash, smash. Every day, every week.

SMASH.

But look at them! They smash, then pop right back and high-five each other like nothing ever happened. Look at that—they're smiling! They're fucking laughing on the sidelines! They look fine, no worse for the wear.

Listen to that player speaking on the sidelines. He sure looks like he's talking fine and thinking fine—although the questions he's being asked don't seem to give him much room to think. But he looks okay, is the point.



RICKY WILLIAMS

(Running Back)

Played from 1999 to 2011 for the New Orleans Saints, the Miami Dolphins and the Baltimore Ravens. He was suspended for the 2006 season after testing positive for cannabis four times.

I don't regret my cannabis use during my career. Just the opposite—I'm very proud of myself, and very grateful that I was somehow able to be courageous enough to trust myself and follow my heart. I think the choices I made allowed me to play 11 years in the NFL and rush for over 10,000 yards, and then be able to walk away from the game and be healthy. I have a very active, vibrant life, and I don't think I would've been able to create this life if I hadn't left the game for a year in 2004. I was in the middle of a personal transformation, and I was lucky

enough not to resist it. I think anytime you go through a transformation in the public eye, it's difficult. But I was smart—I left the country, and I was in a space where no one knew who I was. I got a chance to grow and get to know myself. When I came back to the States, I was a stronger person, in a better place to deal with it.

If cannabis had been legal back then, I think for sure I'd

improve, whether it's to be a better person, a better father, a better football player—whatever. My mind is always working that way. I read, take in information. I find that when I use cannabis, it allows me to make connections as I gather information. I recognize patterns and make connections that give my life meaning. I'm really passionate about making the world a better place and being a better person.

I feel engaged. I wake up happy every morning. And cannabis is part of that story.

be going to the Hall of Fame—no doubt about it. Some say my numbers aren't strong enough. But if I could have used cannabis and been allowed to be a positive person in the community and continue to play, then yeah—I think I'd definitely be in the Hall of Fame.

I understand the NFL as an entity. It's just human nature to fight for survival. If I were them, I'd look to the National Hockey League, which doesn't test for cannabis, and they don't have any issues. To test the whole league just isn't necessary.

I'm the kind of guy who's always thinking about ways to

I advocate for legalization, or at least its regulation and legalization. But I believe in using cannabis consciously, in ways that enrich your life. I'm a proponent of wellness. For me, cannabis has been a key tool for me in moving in that direction. I enjoy my life. It's not perfect, but I feel engaged. I wake up happy every morning. And cannabis is part of that story.

I consider myself a healer of sorts, so I think healing is something that's important, something I think everyone can use a little bit more of, both physical and emotional—especially football players.

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These men are taking a daily punishment that would cripple your neighbor and kill your grandpa. How are they able to withstand this punishment? Is it something in their genes? Their training methods? The medicines they ingest? Their desire to be “The One”?

Whatever it is that keeps these men racing back into the tornado of hammers, they do it—over and over. And for many of them, cannabis is part of the recipe. It helps them withstand repetitive blunt-force trauma to the brain. Cannabis, it seems, prevents brain injuries. Cannabis prevents concussions and helps the brain heal after having one.

What more does the NFL need to hear besides that? Prevents concussions = prevents lawsuits. The only thing that can kill the NFL is a lawsuit.

The legal cannabis industry is becoming a lucrative market, attracting reputable investors and researchers. It’s a ripe moment for the league. The NFL has an opportunity to lead the charge in a budding science and contribute valuable research to a field saturated with interest. And not just in terms of head-trauma research, but also by using cannabis as an alternative to the opioid painkillers that are ravaging our communities. They’re ravaging our NFL communities as well—at a much faster clip.

America is awash in pills, rattling in orange bottles, folded up in white paper bags and delivered by a guy with a degree behind a counter in a white coat. So it’s okay to go swimming again in the river of pills.

Black River... floating slowly and looking up at a starless sky, the trees growing fangs on the banks, reaching in to pluck us out with bony branches and devour us. Either that or we drown.

So what’ll it be, then? For many of us, it’s the decision to use cannabis as an alternative pain medication to opioids—as well as an alternative to a variety of other pharma: sleep meds, mood stabilizers, etc.—to avoid the Black River altogether.

It’s a way out of the dark room, an avenue to rediscovering the self. That means rediscovering the pain. That means facing it with the protection that cannabis offers. That means running back into the tornado of hammers with the scientific seal of approval.

As of now, NFL players who use cannabis must operate in the shadows. Intelligent, successful men are shamed into keeping their valuable epiphanies about cannabis-induced relief to themselves. Football players are pincushions for needles and guinea pigs for experimental

continued on page 88



JAKE PLUMMER

(Quarterback)

Played from 1997 to 2006 for the Arizona Cardinals and the Denver Broncos.

We recorded a PSA last year, “When the Bright Lights Fade.” It’s a campaign to raise funds to explore how CBD can help treat and prevent the onset of symptoms associated with CTE [chronic traumatic encephalopathy] and traumatic brain injury. It was

“I’m not only fighting for cannabis, but possibly helping a lot of my former teammates and opponents live better lives outside of the game.”

going slow—then Eugene Monroe [the Baltimore Ravens offensive tackle who recently retired] stepped up and funded \$80,000 of his own money to help us reach the \$100,000 goal to get it started. We’re forming the assessments with Dr. Ryan Vandry at Johns Hopkins University and Marcel Bon-Miller, who’s over at the University of Pennsylvania.

We can’t outright say we’re studying cannabis in the NFL, because we’d probably meet a lot of resistance. So our ultimate goal in the study, which we’re phrasing as a study on substance use and player health, is to look at players throughout a whole season: their use of not only

cannabis, but opioids and anti-inflammatories, alcohol—whatever they’re taking. Hopefully, we’ll have enough players sign up so we can have them take surveys each week. We’d do an initial evaluation prior to the season, one after, and track their progress, their healing times, their recovery from concussions and whatever else we can.

There’s never been a study done like this. There are players who want to donate, but

to assimilate to a normal life and being okay with being a retired football player, doing nothing in daily life that’s as exciting or as much fun—well, my way was to get completely away from football. That’s why I moved up to North Idaho.

I was basically gone for about five years. Then some opportunities started coming my way pertaining to this, and this is the biggest one yet. I pinch myself and go: “Wow—I’m not only fighting for cannabis, but possibly helping a lot of my former teammates and opponents live better lives outside of the game.” That’s my main focus, to hopefully help these guys get off opioids and maybe not pull the trigger when they’re down in the dumps.

I know when I was playing, I could get a pill on a plane ride real easy if I needed it—if I had a hard game and got pounded a bunch, if I just needed to sleep. But there were guys who took two, three, four Percs or Vikes a day just to get through practice. Now the NFL claims they’ve tightened the screws. But if guys are addicted, there are so many avenues to get your opioids that they don’t need the NFL trainers anymore. It’s painful to play football—that’s the ultimate reality.

I found occasional relief in cannabis beginning in 2002 (continued on page 88)



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The Brady

Take an in-depth tour behind the scenes at an award-winning marijuana farm in Oregon that produces pristine, medical-grade cannabis using tried and true cultivation techniques.

Story & photos by StinkBud

Welcome to High Winds Farms

The Pacific Northwest is home to some of the finest growers on Earth. If you can hold your own in this neighborhood, you deserve worldwide respect. Brady Clausen has shown that he's one of the elite by winning the 2015 Northwest Cannabis Classic, held in Portland, Oregon, last fall (as well as a third-place trophy in the hybrids category), thereby cementing his reputation as one of the best growers in the country.

So how does Brady harvest a bunch of his award-winning weed? It all starts with genetics. There's no sense working with subpar genetics, he explains—if it's not top-shelf, it's not worth keeping. All of his plants must earn the Clausen seal of approval. On my visit to High Winds Farms, he took me upstairs into a large growroom. On wooden shelves sat rows of small plants. Most of the room was stacked with high-output (HO) fluorescent lamps, with one row of high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamps for the mothers. Brady explains that he likes good old-fashioned fluorescent lights and has yet to find anything better. Looking at the plants, I'd have to agree. Their internode spacing was spot on, with short stems and large, healthy leaves. I could tell by the deep-green color that these plants were lovin' life!

Bunch



A trellis keeps growing tops closer to their light source.

KENT/SEA



Give vegging plants plenty of space to expand.



Mother plants produce a continuous supply of rooted clones.

The Vegetative Stage

Brady keeps a row of mother plants next to the teens. From these, he takes cuttings and places them in standard rockwool cubes. He dips the clones in rooting gel first; then it's off to the Thunder Dome to pop roots. Brady prefers soil throughout the entire grow cycle: He uses a high-quality local soil but says that any top-shelf soil will do. The plants are transplanted several times throughout their lifespan. The first stage is in standard 4-inch square pots, where they spend a week or two. Then they're transplanted into 1-gallon containers until the plants reach about 1 foot tall. They spend their rebellious teens in 3-gallon containers (telling Brady, "Fuck off! You can't make me flower!") before their final move into 20-gallon pots. Brady is careful not to stress the plants during each transplant; he allows them time to adjust to their new home before switching them over to flower.



Flowers forming



Orderly rows

The Flowering Stage

After the vegetative stage, the girls go into one of four massive flowering rooms. It's so bright in there that it feels like an indoor Arizona! The ceiling is lined with 1,000-watt HPS lamps with integrated ballasts. Everything is controlled by computer; Brady showed me how he can adjust the timing of every room, all from one place. He can dim the lights to whatever intensity he chooses and also set them to slowly reach the 12-hours-on/12-hours-off cycle over a couple of weeks, so as not to shock the plants. It makes sense, when you think about it: How would you like to have a 1,000-watt light hanging inches above your head and then, instead of waking up to a phone beeping, get the equivalent of being slapped by a small sun?

Each flowering room has its own dedicated commercial air conditioner and dehumidifier—we're talking A/C units the size of a small car. Without air-cooled lights, it's critical to have enough A/C to keep the rooms under 80°F. This isn't hard during the cold Oregon winters, but it can be a challenge on those 100°F summer days! The humidifiers are set to maintain the rooms at 60% humidity. Brady says this is the optimum setting for keeping his plants happy and mold-free.

The plants are lined up in rows by strain. This makes harvesting them much easier, as Brady can take down entire rows while leaving the rest of the room to finish. He has two layers of netting running the entire length of each room. The plants love it, but it makes walking through the aisles a pain in the ass. Every time I turned around, I felt like a bug in a spider web. I mean, really: How many times can someone get his head stuck in a net? You'd think I'd have learned after the 10th time!

Training Day

The netting allows the plants to be trained like a well-oiled gimp. When I entered the flowering room, I felt like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* walking into Emerald City for the first time. I really wished I had my magic slippers with me—nothing but wall-to-wall joy! It felt like some kind of bizarre stoner dream where any minute you think the cops are going to knock on the door of your van and tell you to move it away from the river. Each plant has a hose with a drip ring attached; the hose leads to a reservoir with a pump, where Brady keeps the perfect mix of water and



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nutrients.

I asked Brady how he had his water timers set, and was surprised when he said that he didn't use them. As good as a timer-based system is, he explained, it's not perfect—the plants will need more or less water throughout their grow cycle, and sometimes the timers just don't get it right: What works great one day may starve the plants a week later. Brady insists that nothing beats the human eye—or, I should say, the human hand, since he prefers lifting the plants to see if they need water. If the plant feels light, then he knows it's time to crank up the pumps. He's also able to monitor the plants to make sure they aren't overwatered. If the pots are so heavy that he can't lift them, he'll back off the all-you-can-eat buffet a little. This technique requires years of experience to master. It's not something you can learn just by reading a book; you have to *do* it, over and over. But once you have it wired, it's a surprisingly quick and easy way to check your plants.

Feeding Time

The plants are watered with a mixture of clean water and nutrients. There's no need for a reverse-osmosis (RO) machine up here, where our water is cleaner than our minds. Brady prefers the Botanicare line of nutrients. He says they produce a better taste, and if you've ever had the pleasure of smoking his weed, you'd wholeheartedly agree. Brady takes great pride in the overall flavor of his herb, and you can tell after the first mouthwatering puff: His buds burn smooth and leave a clean, white ash.

Brady is currently using the standard Botanicare formula of Base, Tea, Grow/Bloom, Hydroguard, Hydroplex and Cal/Mag. He adjusts the ppm to different amounts depending on the stage of growth. As the plants phase from the veg stage to flower, he cuts down on nitrogen while increasing potassium and phosphorus. Brady is adamant about using Hydroguard to inoculate the soil with the friendly bacteria *bacillus*. He also uses Pure Blend Tea to enhance the aroma and flavor—not to mention that it helps to feed the beneficial bacteria.

On the wall outside each growroom is a large whiteboard with a detailed rundown of the room. The correct ppm, nutrients and schedule are all laid out. Next to the nutrient table are the reservoirs; each room has its own unique mix of nutrients and water. Brady spends a great deal of time adjusting the ratio to



perfection. He starts out by keeping the ppm low, using Botanicare's vegetative formula, and slowly raises it over time. He changes from the veg mix to the bloom formula during flowering. The last few weeks, he drops the ppm to flush the plants of any excess nutrients. When you look at Brady's buds, they have a wonderful light-green/gold tone to them. Of course, that's if you can see through all the trichomes!

Time to Harvest

Brady observes his plants closely, watching for the perfect time to harvest. He doesn't rely on a calendar to decide; he uses his eyes. He examines the trichomes to see if the crystals are turning from cloudy to amber. Only when the plants meet Brady's strict requirements are they ready to harvest.

On that day, everything is cut down and all the fan leaves are trimmed off and mulched. The plants are hung in the drying room on their way to the finish line. The drying room has a large dehumidifier with fans blowing on the hanging plants. Brady prefers a nice, slow dry; he says the buds taste better if the plants have a chance to use up the final nutrients trapped within the cells. He adds that the only thing you have to watch out for is mold: It's important to inspect the buds and make sure they don't start to rot. (Is there anything worse than bud mold? Every outdoor grower in the Northwest has at least one horror story to tell!)

Brady checks the drying plants frequently. He bends the stems and, when they snap, he knows they're ready for the final trim. Brady has a crew of hand trimmers jamming away to music, with the sound of *clip-clip-clip* always in the background. It almost sounds like little crickets chirping away, hoping to get laid. When I asked him why he prefers hand trimming when he could obviously afford the best machine trimmer, Brady replied: "Why spend all that time and money growing the perfect buds, only to ruin them at the last minute?" Although trimming machines are fast, they tend to damage the buds and knock off many of the trichomes, he added. Basically, if you grow the best bud, you need the best trim job.

(from top) Drippers feed plants individually. Hang drying works best. A crisp well-dried top. Trimming in progress

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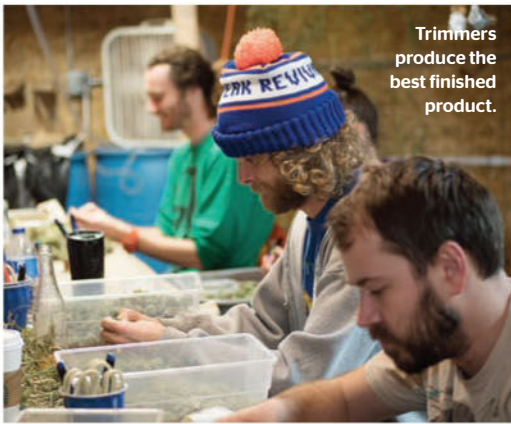
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Winning Weed

Brady's team is top-notch: The care his trimmers lavish on every bud is simply amazing. Years of experience allow his crew to trim to perfection. You won't see any kickstands or crow's feet on these buds—nothing but sugar-coated calyxes await the lucky smoker! After the buds are trimmed, they're placed in glass jars for a couple of weeks to allow them to cure properly. Brady burps each jar a few times a day, letting the excess moisture escape. Only when the buds pass his final inspection are they sent off to the distributor.

There are a lot of master growers here in the Great Pacific Northwest. Alaska, Washington and Oregon have always been at the forefront

of the cannabis revolution—and when these master growers get together and choose Brady's bud as the best, what does that tell you? Brady Clausen is not just your average grower: His flowers are at the top of the bud chain. If you're ever in Oregon, stop by one of the local dispensaries and try some of Brady's bud for yourself—just look for "High Winds Farms" on the label. I currently have some of his award-winning Blackberry in front of me right now! It looks completely white, shimmering in the sunlight. It's almost too pretty to smoke! I said *almost...* ✨



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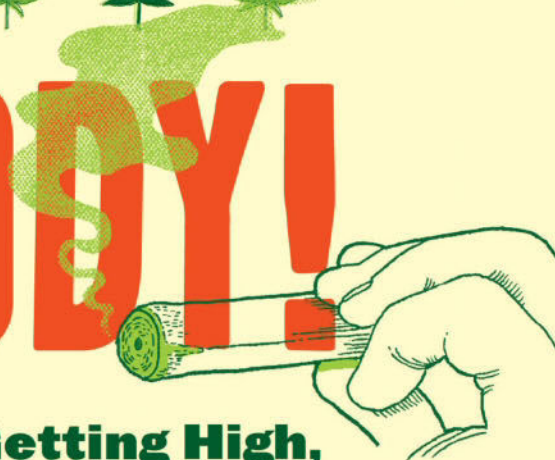
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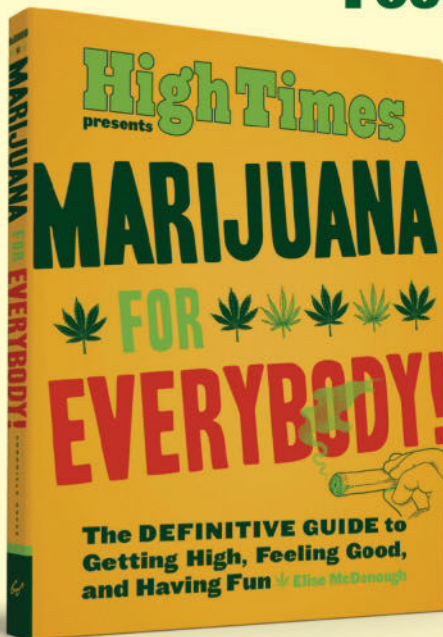
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POT AND THE NFL

continued from page 72

pain and anti-inflammatory medication. But many players prefer cannabis, because cannabis is more effective.

This truth exposes the colossal misuse of resources by the NFL. The sum of all the parts of the NFL medical apparatus is less effective in curing the football body than a single herb, administered by the patient himself.

The NFL's ego is always in play. A very sensitive fella, this NFL guy. But if he were able to swallow his embarrassment and focus instead on the implications of this discovery, he may find solutions to a few of his other problems hiding in the buds of this complex plant. Administering cannabis to current and former players would cut health costs, reduce brain trauma, reduce concussion-related litigation, create fewer opioid addicts, and provide the NFL and the NFL Players Association with an affordable way to insure vested veterans for life, which is really the rub here.

Former players need a lifetime of health care for the injuries they sustained on the football field. Cannabis care would, I'm fairly certain, be a most welcome benefit for a significant percentage of former players dealing with a variety of post-football cognitive and orthopedic problems, most of which have not been thoroughly researched and therefore can't be addressed.

We need people in white lab coats to tell players that cannabis is good. Football players aren't supposed to use their minds, remember? Shut up and play. Your ideas are of no use to us, and if you do speak up, we'll assume you're a blubbering, blustering meathead.

"Me football player. Me eat steak."

That's the stereotype held by many people, both inside and outside the league. It comes, I assume, from watching what we do to each other on the field. SMASH! "Wow ... no way he's thinking straight after that!"

You wouldn't think so. You'd think we were all scrambled eggs by now. But some of us can still think. Some of us can still be inspired. Some of us still believe in love... and I think we all know why. ✨



*Nathan Jackson played tight end from 2003 to 2009 for the San Francisco 49ers, the Denver Broncos and the Cleveland Browns. He's the author of *Slow Getting Up* and the upcoming *Fantasy Man*. (Jackson*

was also featured as the High Times interview in the June '14 issue.)

JAKE PLUMMER

(continued from page 72)

from the stress involved playing football. But as far as pain management, I didn't really start using it until I had both hips operated on back in 2013 and 2014, after my career was over. After my second hip surgery, I was lying there in the hip machine, moving my leg, contemplating everything, wondering if it was worth it. That's when I started using a lot more cannabis to deal with the pain, but also to get me out of a negative frame of mind and being mad about the injuries I was dealing with instead of embracing them, getting over them and getting active again.

It was my choice to leave the game. I think a lot of guys deal with: "See you later. We don't want you

anymore—you're not good enough. You're cut." A lot of them have to deal with that and go through mental anguish. I know some guys I played with in the early 2000s who hate football and don't want to go to games and can't stand the thought of it. It's sad, because if you played in the NFL, you're amazing to have accomplished that. You're a bad-ass mofo no matter what. Even if you were a punter, you're still pretty tough. So owning that and being able to accept that is part of the healing process.

It's fun to help guys not feel bitter about what we did, but start to own it and get involved again—to go to functions and get paid to come drink beers and play golf. I mean, good God, we put ourselves through such rigors and such sacrifice—to not enjoy your post-career is

a sad thing.

Ultimately, I believe the players will be the ones who can push this issue. Obviously, decriminalizing and declassifying both marijuana and hemp will help that cause. Once that's done and there's no more criminal link to marijuana, there's a chance that more players can say: "Hey, why am I forced to use only pharmaceutical options for pain relief when there's a non-addictive, non-toxic medicine out there?"

We have to have concrete evidence and research done, which is key, because [NFL commissioner] Roger Goodell is on record saying if there's evidence that cannabis can be beneficial to players' health, the league will look into it. So he's set himself up. If we come back with hard evidence, they have to look into it.

WARREN SAPP

(Hall of Fame Defensive Tackle)

Played from 1995 to 2007 for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Oakland Raiders.

Cannabis definitely has to be looked at by the league. But there are still too many people who think it should be a Schedule I drug. You'd think that if it's something you don't know anything about, you'd try to find out about it first. But the NFL is run by a bunch of old white guys—they're dinosaurs, and dinosaurs don't see something that's valuable. This information needs to get out there. That's what I'm about.

One of the biggest reasons the NFL bans cannabis is that American Express don't want it. So the NFL is gonna go in that direction, too. This is a \$12 billion system.

A player sacrifices his body every game, crashing his body 70 to 80 plays a game. In my career, that's like 13,000 car crashes. And the league worries about THC in our system?

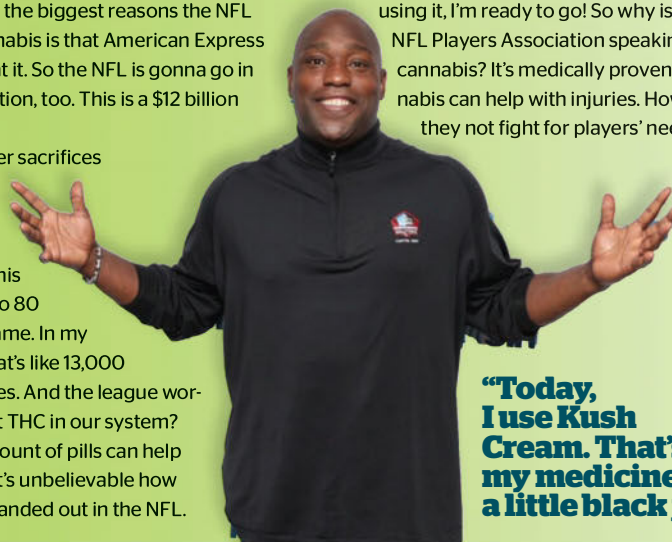
No amount of pills can help that, but it's unbelievable how pills are handed out in the NFL.

They're addictive and destroy your stomach lining and your liver and kidneys.

They'd rather we go drink beer. That's the world we live in, even though there's a tsunami of information that should tell them that cannabis is good for players.

We're not talking about getting high—we're talking about pain medication. I didn't use cannabis until the end of my career. By that time, I didn't want to use Vicodin or that other bullshit. Everything hurt—my knees, my shoulders, my hips. I refused to do that to myself anymore.

Today, I use Kush Cream. That's my medicine in a little black jar. Ten minutes after using it, I'm ready to go! So why isn't the NFL Players Association speaking out for cannabis? It's medically proven that cannabis can help with injuries. How can they not fight for players' needs?



"Today, I use Kush Cream. That's my medicine in a little black jar."

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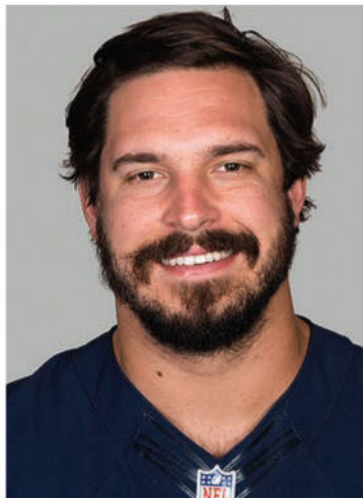
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EBEN BRITTON

(Offensive Tackle)

Played from 2009 to 2014 for the Jacksonville Jaguars and the Chicago Bears.



I'm in my second year of retirement. Coming out of football, part of the transition is a total loss of identity. I'm a football player... I was a football player. But it's what I am—one of the elite. Everything you've done led to you making it to the NFL. You got yourself there—the NFL doesn't give anyone anything. You earned every single bit of that. But you go from doing something where every minute of your day is planned out—meetings, practice, weightlifting, recovery time, more meetings—then, suddenly, one day it's all over, like a dream.

You go through your football life with a gauge of what's acceptable—what's good, what's bad, what you're allowed to talk about, what it means to be a football player, what kind of image you're supposed to present. You hide things, like using cannabis at home. It makes you feel better, it eases aches and pain, but you can't let coaches know about that part of your life. I smoked from my first year in the NFL—occasionally in college.

I was using cannabis, along with highly potent anti-inflammatories like Indocin and Cataflam. You do whatever it takes to be on the field. Every guy on the football field every Sunday is in some amount of pain. Nobody feels good out there physically. But on game day, nobody thinks about it. Guys are flying around, amped up—adrenaline and testosterone through the roof. You're ready to rip throats out. That's what you do—and you love it. And the pain and the pills are worth it on Sundays. That's why most football players don't take any time to think about anything else. The rush of what we do is what it's all about.

Now, I take zero prescription drugs. My thinking gets clearer as more time passes after leaving football. Using cannabis has definitely helped me through the transition—the stress-relieving effect, the relaxing effect, the pain-relieving effect.

I've spent the last 20 years of my life playing football. I'm 28. I went to the University of Arizona for creative writing. In high school, I read *Less Than Zero* by Bret Easton Ellis and realized I could major in creative writing in college. It's helped me have an outlet outside of football, where everything you do is scrutinized or praised. Cannabis helps feed something in me, without me going out and getting crazy. It gives me a surge of optimism. I can channel that rush into my writing. It helps me settle into the moment and not worry about yesterday or tomorrow.

When I first started talking about cannabis, I was worried about upsetting somebody. Then I had this realization: Fuck it, you know? If I can share my experience, maybe I can help somebody out. This stuff is real; it's a major medicine. We know about the side effects and the long-term issues that come with prescription-drug use.

My challenge to the NFL is this: If concussions are the number-one issue, why not become the innovators in brain science and brain recovery? Why not be at the forefront of player safety, athletic safety and brain-trauma treatment in sports? Let's look for answers rather than shunning guys who want to use a natural alternative.

When I first started talking about cannabis, I was worried about upsetting somebody. Then I had this realization: Fuck it, you know?

MARIO FATAFEHI

(Defensive Tackle)

Played from 2001 to 2004 for the Arizona Cardinals, the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos.

I already had demons coming into the game. The game saved me because it gave me an outlet; it made me somebody strong. It gave me a new identity. It gave me a purpose, a team, a family. That's what football is—it's a brotherhood. I owe football. I love football. It taught me accountability.

But after the NFL, you don't leave your injuries at the stadium. They follow you the rest of your life. I got hooked on painkillers—but with 420, I don't take none of that shit no more. No painkillers.

In my career, I had neck spasms, headaches, injuries to my shoulder, elbow, wrist, back, knees. I had to rebreak my right ankle because when I was in Denver, they told me it was a high-ankle sprain. So they just gave me some painkillers, taped up my leg, gave me a shot, and I went and ran around on it. Then, later in my life, I kept having a hard time walking. The doctors said it was gout, but when they X-rayed my leg, they said: "It's not gout. When did you break your ankle? Look at the X-ray—see this little circle right here? It means it broke and healed wrong." Ha ha ha... awesome. The whole time I was in Denver, I was playing on a broken ankle.

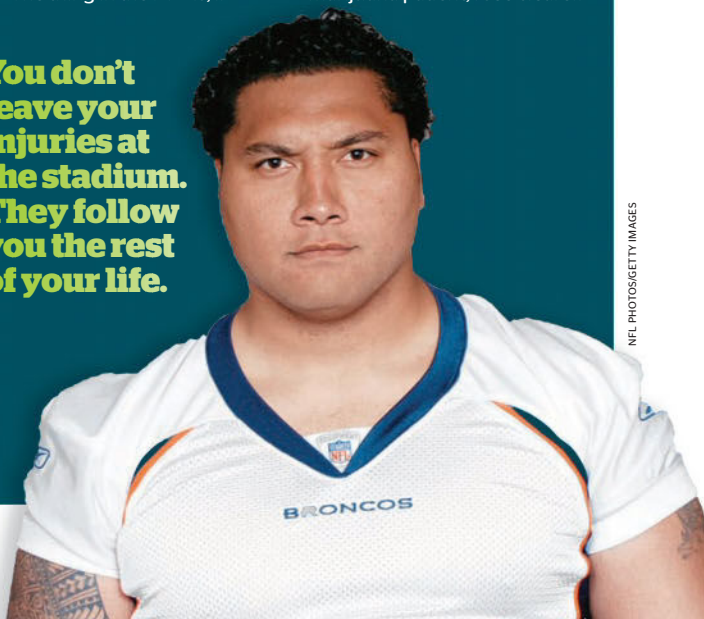
The thing in the NFL is, if

you're injured, it means you're not worthy. Nobody wants to be in the training room, because if the head coach sees you on your back with an ice pack, you're the crybaby in the room. You're going to get the boot.

But when you're broken, you need help to remove that mental helmet and really transition. We fought to become NFL players; now we have to fight to become normal again. We need marijuana to help us. Our physical bodies get hurt, but what about the psychological? What about my identity? What about my brain? What about my heart? They don't give a shit. You're a football player—tough it up! But I have no right to fucking cry: There's always somebody worse off. This game is for people who can take the pain.

At first, I wanted to blame football for my bad luck in my later years—my divorce, my diagnosis of depression, my traumatic brain injury and mild cognitive impairment, my four vacations in the psych ward. I was blaming football—but on the last visit to my second psych ward in St. George, Utah, one of the group sessions really rang a bell with me, man. The lesson was accountability. Everybody has their own shit, but here's the thing: Everybody's got different ways of dealing with it. I tried the pharmaceutical way. But when I started smoking cannabis, I began to see how fucked up I'd been. Now that I'm a medical marijuana patient, I see clearer.

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KEVIN GOGAN

(Offensive Lineman)

Played from 1987 to 2000 for the Dallas Cowboys, the Los Angeles/Oakland Raiders, the San Francisco 49ers, the Miami Dolphins and the San Diego Chargers. He was suspended for 30 days for cannabis use in 1988. (Gogan was featured as the *High Times* Interview in the March '15 issue.)

The day I quit playing football was the day I quit taking pain pills—and drinking, for that matter. I got my medical card, and it's much better to be on cannabis. It makes my body feel better and really helps my day-to-day activities. I actually believe that CBD can save the NFL—I'm 110 percent behind this. I'm of the firm belief that CBD can be part of concussion protocol in the NFL. We have knowledge today that wasn't here when I played. It's time to



“I actually believe that CBD can save the NFL—I’m 110 percent behind this.”

look at what's in front of us and really consider this.

I live this life: I feel like shit until I take my CBD—and THC, for that matter. I played 14 extremely painful years—longer than the majority of people who play. But the NFL does zero for us, absolutely zero. The NFL sent me for a physical for my disability. I was in the guy's room for no more

than seven minutes. I goddamn played 14 years in this fucking league, had over 18 surgeries, and this guy puts a thing on my head, tells me to lean left, lean right, lean forward and lean back, then sent me packing.

These owners are filthy fucking rich, but there are guys out there blowing their heads off, friends of mine who are hurt and dying. And they can't cut a small piece of that pie for these retired players who are going through fucking hell?

First and foremost, I think players need to get something out of this concussion lawsuit, if it's still possible. We have to be able to take the NFL to court while we're still alive, not when we're dead. I don't like to just point fingers, but the Players Association needs to give retired players a seat at the table when these discussions come up.



“The toll of football adds up quickly—the pain pills, the anti-inflammatories, the sleep pills, dealing with the stress.”

KYLE TURLEY

(Offensive Tackle)

Played from 1998 to 2007 for the New Orleans Saints, the St. Louis Rams and the Kansas City Chiefs.

I began using cannabis in my second year in the NFL, probably at 22. I stayed as clean as it gets until then.

It was the pills, honestly—that's what ended up pushing me to marijuana.

My introduction to opioids came in college,

when I blew out my knee for the first time. I think we're all clean until we have an injury. The NFL is a trove of pharmaceuticals: You never had to go to the doctor, you never had to sit in a waiting room, you never had to look at any information pamphlets. Nobody ever told you that this might be harmful. It was: “You got a problem? We got a problem solver—right here—a pharmaceutical solution.”

Opioids were fueling my distress. I know now that's what was happening. The toll of football adds up quickly—the pain pills, the

anti-inflammatories, the sleep pills, dealing with the stress. But you get to a point where they aren't working. You build tolerances. Some guys were taking 10 to 20 Vicodin and Percocet a day. I never got to those levels, but there's definitely an epidemic of pills in the NFL. There's a billion-dollar lawsuit in the courts right now against the NFL for overprescription of opiates and injections of drugs like Toradol that should never have been as widely used as they were with us. I played 10 years in the NFL, and I probably took a Toradol shot every other game. I don't know what the damage is going to be to my kidneys and liver, but guys my age who I played with, like Marcellus Wiley, had total kidney failure.

I was coming home from practice one day with a now-Hall of Fame player, a guy I looked up to. He knew I was going through some struggles. I was going through a divorce, and then there were the pressures, obviously, of the NFL. I was a first-round draft pick, and I put pressure on myself. I was really unraveling emotionally. And I was dealing with more neurological issues—emotional issues, rage... I didn't understand what was going on. Things were getting to a boiling point where it was difficult to separate who I was from the football field, to put it aside and be a productive person, someone who could function in society. Add up all these factors: You're not sleeping with the sleep aids, and the pain's not going away with the opiates. Nothing's helping. But that day, when cannabis was introduced to me—again, *continued on page 130*

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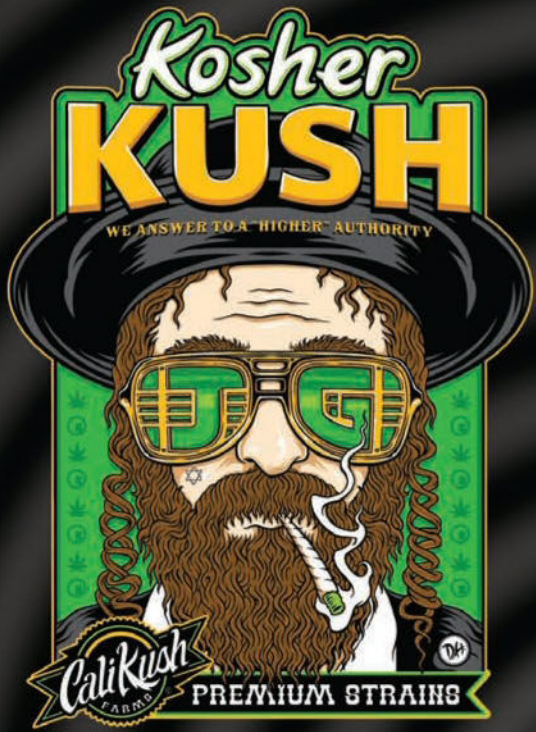
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Marijuana Election 2016

This is it—the year that historians will look back on and declare: “This was the tipping point for the end of American pot prohibition.”
By Russ Belville

“The most important presidential election ever!”

That’s what the political pundits say every four years. But this year, for the cannabis community, it’s true!

Don’t you want to tell your grandkids that you helped end the War on Drugs, which Judge Jim Gray has called “the worst public policy decision since slavery?” Then make sure you’re registered in your state and get out and vote.

The Presidential Candidates... on Weed

You know we've come a long way when all of the major presidential candidates support state-level medical marijuana programs. There are many issues on which to judge these candidates, and many perspectives on current events and policies—however, if cannabis-law reform were the sole deciding factor, which one would get your vote?

Hillary Clinton

The former secretary of state and likely Democratic nominee is decent on the issue, offering her qualified support for medical marijuana, though she still thinks that more research is needed. She also believes that marijuana should be moved to Schedule II under the federal Controlled Substances Act, the same category as cocaine, methamphetamine and OxyContin. Clinton has expressed support for the right of states to move forward with marijuana-law reform, but she stops short of endorsing legalization at the federal level.



Donald Trump

The presumptive Republican nominee is probably the worst of the five candidates on this issue. Trump has been all over the map regarding this nation's drug laws. In the 1990s, he opined that all drugs should be legalized, but as the GOP candidate he opposes even the legalization of marijuana for adult recreational use. Still, Trump has expressed support for the right of states to set medical marijuana policies.



Gary Johnson

The former two-term governor of New Mexico is the Libertarian Party candidate and a great proponent for cannabis-law reform. He openly supports the legalization of marijuana for medical and recreational use, even citing his own use in both areas to make the point. Johnson was also the CEO of a medical marijuana corporation before he resigned to run for president.



Jill Stein

The Green Party candidate is also highly regarded for her stance on marijuana-law reform. A medical doctor for 25 years, Stein supports the legalization of marijuana for medical and recreational use and has said that she would end its Schedule I designation under the Controlled Substances Act, which places marijuana in the same highly restricted category as heroin and PCP.



States to Watch

Here are the states that will legalize either recreational or medical marijuana in 2016—with your help. (Note: Other states may have initiatives circulating as of press time, but we're focusing on those most likely to make the ballot.)



California

The Golden State has the eighth-largest economy in the world and 55 electoral votes in the presidential election. The Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA) will legalize the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana, eight grams of which can be concentrates. Adults may grow up to six cannabis plants indoors—no locality can ban this—and growers may legally possess the entire results of their harvest. Other pot-related felonies or misdemeanors get reduced to misdemeanors or tickets or nothing at all, to the point where there will no longer be any possession felonies in California. The only penalty that increases under AUMA is public toking, which goes from a \$100 fine to \$250. The bill would introduce a commercial retail system that includes growers, processors, retailers and testing labs. Localities, at their discretion, could license adult marijuana lounges—something that Colorado, Washington and Oregon have yet to achieve. The proposed taxes are a bit high, though: a 15 percent sales tax and a \$9.25-per-ounce production tax.



Nevada

The Silver State is eagerly awaiting the legalization of marijuana as yet another entertainment option in the casino-strewn desert. The legalization initiative here is one of four branded as CRMLA, which stands for the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, written and promoted by the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP). The possession limits are similar to California's AUMA—up to one ounce, including seven grams of concentrates—and there will be a commercial retail system with a 15 percent excise tax. But that's where the similarities end. Nevada's CRMLA is far more restrictive than any of the now-legal states or the other states with initiatives: While adults would have the right to grow six plants each, with a limit of 12 per household, there are penalties buried in the bill's language for cultivating marijuana

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within 25 miles of a licensed pot shop. Basically, that means almost everyone living in the state's urban areas *won't* be able to grow cannabis at home, leaving cultivation to Nevada residents who live in the rural desert areas. Furthermore, Nevada's CRMLA maintains draconian penalties for exceeding its limits: Possession of more than an ounce can earn you a felony intent-to-sell charge.

Arizona
The Grand Canyon State has the second CRMLA for us to review. The Arizona initiative, which employs much of the same boilerplate language as the other CRMLAs, allows the possession of up to an ounce, just five grams of which can be concentrates. Unlike neighboring Nevada, however, Arizona's CRMLA actually would allow all adults in the state to grow six plants indoors, with a maximum of 12 plants per household. Oddly, while the Nevada CRMLA establishes a 25-mile no-grow zone around pot shops, Arizona's CRMLA, by allowing all adults to home-grow, eliminates the 25-mile no-grow zone around the state's dispensaries, which was established by the 2010 medical marijuana law, also written by

MPP. Adults may legally possess the entire results of their harvest at the site of the grow. Personal-use clubs and pot lounges aren't immediately authorized, but the legislature may approve them starting in 2020. Other pluses: Drivers are protected from DUI prosecutions for having inactive metabolites of marijuana in their blood; parents are protected from losing their kids because of pot; and people in need of organ transplants are protected from being kicked off organ waiting lists for their marijuana use.

Massachusetts
The Bay State has the third CRMLA in our review. As with Arizona's, it legalizes possession of up to one ounce, including five grams of concentrates. Possession of up to two ounces, though, is merely a \$100 fine, and possession of more than two ounces can no longer be prosecuted as a felony. Adults can cultivate up to six plants, with a household limit of 12, and legally possess the entire results of their harvest. Marijuana DUIs must be proven by actual impairment, not the presence of metabolites, and there is no implied consent to a blood or urine draw by law enforcement. Massachusetts also proposes the lowest

taxes among the now-legal states or those with initiatives: just a 3.75 percent state tax and 2 percent local tax. The initiative authorizes a commercial retail system, and localities that wish to limit pot shops can do so only through a vote of the people; no city council can ban them by ordinance.

Maine
The Pine Tree State's initiative is another CRMLA, although the language of this bill—which had input from another group, Regulate Maine—differs from the CRMLA boilerplate in the following ways: Maine will allow the possession of up to two and a half ounces, including concentrates. (Yes, up to 2.5 ounces of concentrate would be legal!) Felony possession begins when you have a pound of marijuana. Adults growing at home will be able to have up to six mature plants, 12 immature plants and unlimited seedlings, but they must all be tagged with the grower's name and Maine driver's-license number, which essentially limits home growing to Maine residents only. Growers may legally possess the entire results of their harvest at the grow site. There will be a commercial retail system, although localities can ban

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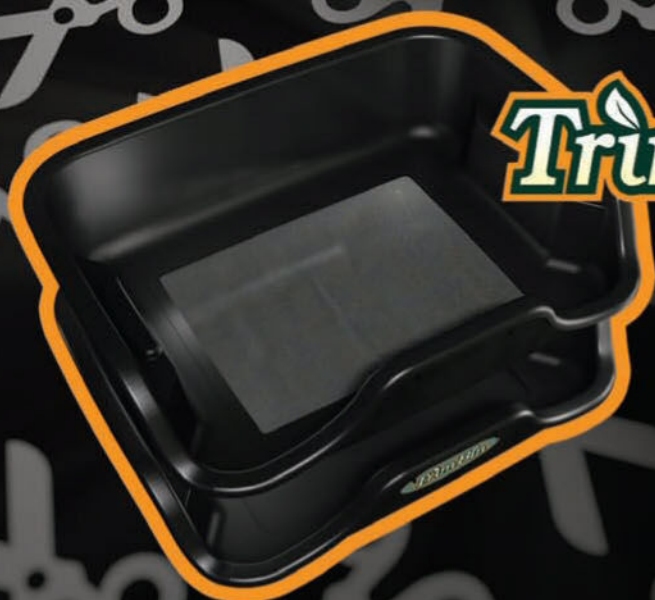
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pot shops by ordinance or public vote, and a 10 percent excise tax at the point of sale. Adults who consume cannabis are protected from employment discrimination; drug tests cannot be used as tools in hiring or firing. There are protections against the loss of child custody and housing discrimination as well. However, landlords can ban smoking, possession and cultivation on their properties, and organ-transplant candidates are not protected under this law.



Florida

In 2014, the Sunshine State narrowly missed passing a medical marijuana law: 58 percent of voters favored an amendment to the state constitution, but 60 percent was required. This year's medical marijuana initiative isn't much different from the 2014 bill, except that it has tighter language in its definition of "caregivers," which was attacked by opponents in the last campaign. The Florida initiative includes a commercial-cultivation and dispensary system; patients would be able to use medical marijuana for conditions like cancer, HIV/AIDS, glaucoma, ALS and PTSD, but also for any comparable malady that a doctor believes cannabis would help.



Missouri

The Show-Me State is looking to pass a medical marijuana law as well. Its language is fairly robust, with a list of qualifying conditions that exceeds those of most current med-pot states. The Missouri bill allows doctors to recommend medical marijuana for any chronic or debilitating condition, and it would also establish a commercial dispensary system.



Arkansas

Perhaps the longest shot in the field is the Natural State's proposed medical marijuana law. Home growing isn't allowed unless you can qualify for a Hardship Cultivation Certificate; otherwise, you have to shop at dispensaries for your medicine. The qualifying-condition list includes over 50 illnesses—but if you suffer from chronic pain, you'll have to prove that other medications and surgery haven't worked for three months.



Montana

As many as three marijuana-related initiatives could be on the ballot in Montana. I-182 is an initiative to restore medical marijuana

in the Treasure State: In 2011, the legislature destroyed Montana's burgeoning dispensary system by establishing a limit of three patients per caregiver and auditing doctors who recommended cannabis to more than 25 patients. This initiative would undo those restrictions and finally establish a regulated dispensary system statewide.

I-176, on the other hand, is an initiative to restore pot *prohibition* in the state by repealing the medical marijuana program altogether and aligning Montana's drug laws with federal law (i.e., whatever's illegal under federal law would also be illegal under state law). Both this initiative and I-182 have plenty of funding and organization behind them, and both are likely to make the ballot.

CI-115, the third initiative under consideration, is a proposed constitutional amendment to legalize the adult use of marijuana in the state, with the details to be worked out later. However, it requires more signatures than the other two initiatives and has far less organization and funding. As a result, it probably won't make the ballot. ✨

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PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, SENATOR CHUCK CHUNKY, HAS STATED THAT IF HE'S ELECTED...

SEN. CHUNKY SPEAKS OUT

THIS CAN'T BE GOOD!

...HE WOULD, QUOTE, "PROSECUTE ALL THESE STATE POT BUSINESSES UNDER THE FULLEST EXTENT OF FEDERAL LAW!", UNQUOTE. HE RECENTLY HAD THIS TO SAY...

MARIJUANA IS DEFINITELY A GATEWAY DRUG THAT WILL DESTROY THIS GREAT NATION OF OURS!

BOO!

THAT DOOSH IS GONNA BE CAMPAIGNING HERE TOMORROW!

I BET IF WE GOT 'EM TO TRY ONE OF OUR FAMOUS "KOZMIK KUSH KOOKIES"...

YAH AND HOW YOU GONNA DO DAT, MAHN?

NEXT DAY...

AND WHEN I AM ELECTED... BLAH BLAH SENATOR!

CARE TO TASTE ONE OF OUR FRESHLY BAKED ALL-AMERICAN FREEDOM SNACKS?

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I'LL JUST TRY A FEW! MUMMMM!

HEY!

I KNOW WHAT THESE TASTE LIKE!

CRUNCH CRUNCH

SOMETHING IN THESE COOKIES TASTES LIKE... HMMMMMM...

THEY TASTE LIKE...

MORE!



UH OH!

SO... GETTING BUSTED... THAT WAS PART OF YOUR BIG PLAN?

GIMME! GIMME!

UHHH... I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH!



WHAT?!

I'M A &%%#@! U.S. SENATOR! I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I'VE HAD ENUFF! LENNEM AT THOSE \$\$\$%&! COOKIES!

YIKES!



WOW!... DUDE MUST'VE EATEN AT LEAST TWO DOZEN COOKIES!

...HADN'T REALLY PLANNED ON THAT HAPPENING!

MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T BE HERE WHEN THEY ALL KICK IN! KNOW WHUT I MEAN, MAHN? OHHH YEAH!



LATER...

IN FURTHER POLITICAL NEWS, AFTER GIVING A RAMBLING, INCOHERENT SPEECH TODAY, SEN. CHUNKY HAS SAID HE IS DROPPING OUT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE AND WILL NOW BECOME A FULL-TIME SPOKESMAN FOR SERIOUS MONKEY BIZZNESS...

I'M A PRETTY LITTLE FLOWER!

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BY MARY JANE GIBSON

MELISSA ETHERIDGE

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

SINGER-SONGWRITER. GUITARIST. ACTIVIST. ICONOCLAST. CANNABIS ADVOCATE. MELISSA ETHERIDGE IS A WOMAN OF INNUMERABLE TALENTS. A TWO-TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNER (WITH 17 NOMINATIONS OVER THE COURSE OF HER CAREER), ETHERIDGE ADDED AN ACADEMY AWARD FOR BEST ORIGINAL SONG TO HER COLLECTION IN 2007 FOR "I NEED TO WAKE UP," WRITTEN FOR THE CLIMATE-CHANGE DOCUMENTARY *AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH*. IN JUNE, THE LEGENDARY ROCKER HEADLINED THE HIGH TIMES MEDICAL CANNABIS CUP IN CLIO, MICHIGAN, WHERE SHE SPARKED UP A JOINT ONSTAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME AND PROUDLY DECLARED HER LOVE FOR THE HERB. WE SAT DOWN WITH ETHERIDGE BEFORE HER SHOW FOR A PUBLIC Q&A IN THE SEMINAR TENT ON A WARM SUMMER EVENING TO ASK ABOUT HER ACTIVISM, MUSIC, AND THOUGHTS ON PARENTING, HOLISTIC WELLNESS AND MANIFESTING ONE'S OWN DESTINY.

This is your first time at a Cannabis Cup.

This is a dream of mine. Twelve years ago, when I was going through breast cancer, I was medicating to get through the chemotherapy, which is one of the worst things that we humans do medically. To actually medicate through that, and then realize what an amazing medicine [cannabis] is... my next thought was, "I can't wait to perform onstage for a whole bunch of medicated people," you know? This herb, this plant, was made for music.



How did medical marijuana become a part of your recovery?

It was a pretty clear choice. I was a social smoker—I wasn't a regular smoker at all. When I got breast cancer, a good friend of mine, David Crosby, called me up, and he goes, "Honey, you *have* to use medical marijuana. There's just... you can't get on that roller coaster." And it made sense to me. When I left after my first chemo treatment, the doctor said, "Here's the steroid, and here's the pain reliever, and then you'll have to take this because you'll get constipated from the pain reliever, and then you'll have to take this for the depression." He's handing me six pills, and I was like, "I don't think so. Thank you, no—I'm going to go home, I'm going to smoke one gorgeous plant that comes from the earth that takes care of every single one of those, and that's the way I want it."

How old were you when you first smoked marijuana?

My first experience was in high school, of course, when I had my first girlfriend. I was a senior, and my girlfriend said, "Let's find some pot." And I said, "Okay... how do you find pot?" There was a gal I knew, and I knew she'd know where to find pot: She was the girl who kind of hung out in the parking lot with the smokers, with those really interesting people that I liked very much. So I asked her if she could, and she said yes. She brought me a nug, and I said, "Thank you... now what do I do?" You know, come on—you've been 17 and trying to figure it out, and you eventually lit it on fire and nothing happened. So I don't really call that my first time *smoking*, because it was absolutely just ridiculous.

First time was in Boston. I'm in college; it's 1979. I'm walking home with somebody else. It was really romantic in a really beautiful way. We



Q&A on a sunny day in Michigan

"I'm going to go home, I'm going to smoke one gorgeous plant that comes from the earth that takes care of every single one of those [needs], and that's the way I want it."

stop on a stoop and sit. It's midnight, and she pulls out a little roach, and we smoked it—and that was the first time. I'm sitting there under the beautiful Boston sky, and my mind's going "Whoa," you know? For the first time.

Do you see a connection between the fight for equal rights for the LGBTQ community and the fight to legalize marijuana?

Make no mistake: The legalization of cannabis is a human right; it is a civil right. This is *medicine*. Beyond that, to explore our consciousness is a civil right: No government should ever take away the right to go into our own consciousness and try to find the answers inside as well as outside. That is a civil right, and that's really the ultimate thing that we're doing here—so, yes indeed.

All the other equal-rights movements that I've been personally involved with, I see the same thing: It takes people coming out. It takes people saying, "I am a cannabis smoker. I'm a citizen. I'm a good person. I love my kids. I love my family. I have a job. I don't fit any stereotype."

It takes those people coming out as your neighbor, as your family, as the person at your work. When you start knowing those people, then the fear goes away, and that's how we move forward and change hearts and minds.

You've said that you believe middle-aged women are leading the cannabis revolution.

If you study it, you'll find that in 80 percent of households, the woman is in charge of the money. It's the point of purchase, and so you know how it is. I just think women are the ones who are going to start saying a little earlier: "Oh my God—drinking all this alcohol every night is not good for my skin. It's not good for my figure. It's not good for my personality. I'm waking up cranky. Yet I like to have a little release every night. I like to come down from this problem-solving consciousness that I've been involved in all day long." So that woman is going to go looking for an alternative—something that helps, something that heals. And she's going to find cannabis. And she's going to really enjoy that she can wake up in the morning and feel better.

And her sex life is going to be better. Her attitude is going to be better. And it's going to be very, very clear that this is a right that women want—that they don't just want the choice of alcohol in the evening anymore.

And women, we get loud. We organize. We bring it on. [Audience cheers] And I mean no disrespect, because you men—you're the ones that have been going to jail. You're the guys that have been really putting your necks out and really having a hard time with it. And women, it's time for us to stand up and change the laws and really do the work. So I think it's all of us together.

What do you think the greatest obstacles are to ending the War on Drugs?

Mostly education. When you see the top politicians saying, "Well, marijuana just makes people stupid," you go, "Wow, there is so little education out there!" So it's about, again, coming out. It's about saying, "Did you tell your family where you were going today? You're going to the Cannabis Cup." It's about being that person; it's about taking that responsibility.

You guys, we're at the forefront of this! We're going to look back in 10 years and go, "Well, you don't know how hard it was 10 years ago. You think it's all easy—you now can smoke a joint on the street. But it wasn't so easy 10 years ago." And that's what it's going to take: It's these people *right here* that are doing it.

I watched an interview in which you talked about manifesting your own destiny.

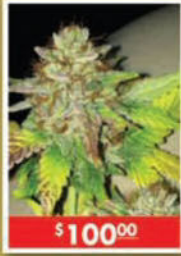
Well, let me tell you a little bit about my experience. Twelve years ago—well, it's always hard to know where to start the story, because it keeps going back... but after becoming successful, after winning the awards and being number one and all that



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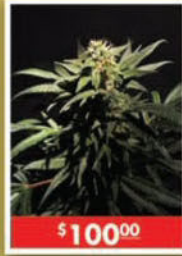
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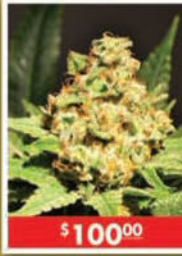
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stuff—what one would call all my dreams come true—well, then there's the next day. And I mean, I now can look and see: *Well, that's the way life goes.* It's the journey—it's not necessarily the destination.

But I had kind of a crisis sort of thing. My relationship fell apart. Everything started kind of crumbling, and I literally looked up to the sky: "What do you want from me?" And I was actually getting a little more interested in cannabis. My wife at the time was more interested medicinally. I asked her if she'd ever had an edible, and she said no. I said, "Well, let's make cookies." She's a very good baker, and she made really good cookies—so, long story short, I did a massive, heroic dose of cannabis, okay? And you've all been there; you've done it. If you haven't, you should do it once, because it took me way out there where some of us have been... some of us are *still* there. You get that perspective, and you go, "Holy shit. Life is about so much more than I thought it was about." And then I came back, and I was different. I didn't fear death—and it was about a week later that I was diagnosed with breast cancer.

So I go through this experience, and I'm like, "Wait a minute—I'm a completely different person." So I start looking for the spiritual stuff. I start reading about quantum physics, and my brain just, you know, exploded, and I started putting all this stuff together and realized that cannabis is just the *start* of the whole plant-medicine movement. There's so much more. I studied astrology too, so—so... oh, I'm a



"Long story short, I did a massive, heroic dose of cannabis, okay?"

stoner, so I've forgotten your question. [Laughter] What was the question? Because there's an ending here—I just need to know where to go.

We were talking about manifesting your own destiny.

Yes, absolutely. So when I was dealing with cancer, I realized that so much of it is what we manifest in our thoughts. I mean, every religion has this in it. Every spiritual practice understands this. And it's just us getting back to that—and cannabis helps us. I could talk for days on that.

I think we all want you to talk for days about that.

I'm going to play music and talk about it. That's the best way to really let it get in.

Are you going to play "Ain't That Bad" tonight?

Oh my gosh... now I am, yeah.

Because of the lyrics?

My whole thing that I

say about myself is: *Speak the truth.* I used to say that about being gay, but it applies to everything. When I came out and was able to talk about being gay and be the one to answer those questions, I realized how powerful that was. Ten years ago, I said: "I'm going to come out as a cannabis smoker, and I'm going to answer the questions." So that's how I have walked.

"Ain't That Bad" came about because I was recording with this rapper named Rockstar, and I said, "Here, try... I have a 'sunny stick,' which is a honey stick. It's amazing." We shared it, and he said, "What is that?" I said, "This is a Sunny Day Honey Stick." And he kept saying, "What is that? That's a sugar-pie honeycomb?" So the first lyric of the song is "I've got a sugar-pie honeycomb / I've got a Sunny Day Honey Stick." You've got to walk the walk, and you've got to tell the world what you're doing.

Tell us about your cannabis-infused wine.

In California, we are doing some crazy things. One of the things is infusing cannabis into wine. It's something that they've been doing since biblical days. They found clay pots with cannabis and wine all together. They weren't afraid of it like we are now.

So this is something that's been underground for quite a long time, and I thought, "This needs to be brought to the surface." I've got some really great people who are working behind it and working step by step through the legal system, through the political system.

Right now, it's a medicine. It's medicinal in California because it's a



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wine tincture—you can make a medicine with alcohol. It's just a really expensive alcohol that we're making the tincture out of. But it's fabulous. It's a lovely taste. I can't wait until it comes to the world.

Have you ever grown your own weed?

It is not easy at all. Growers, oh, love, respect to you. [Cheers] You give such love, and when you partake of that strain, you can feel the love and the attention put into all those plants. But I'm not growing this year. I'm not there to grow. You have to be there every day. They're like children.

Do you prefer indica or sativa?

It depends. I'm *indica* at night. A little *indica* and it's nighty-night, Melissa, you know? I'm *sativa* when I'm doing something. When I'm performing, it's *sativa*; when I'm writing, it's *sativa*. But if I have to deal with my family, not *sativa*, because that's like too much coffee. I like a hybrid during the day.

What's your favorite time to blaze?

You know, my favorite time is when the kids are asleep, and you don't have to worry about their lives anymore. They're asleep. There's my wife. There's a bath. There's some good music. Yeah, it's about 8:20 every night—not 4:20, but almost 9.

How do you talk to your kids about marijuana?

I'm very open about it. I have teenagers, 19 and 17, and I have two 9-year-old twins. Now the teenagers were about 8, 9, 10 when I was coming into the advocacy of this, when I really started saying, "Look, this is what I do, and I don't want to be thought of as a criminal." So I sat them down and I said, "Your mama smokes pot." And it was kind of young for them for me to do

that, but I was afraid someone else was going to talk to them.

I believe that it can help so many young people if we really, really open up and stop being so afraid of it, of what it's going to do to them, because it actually can help them so that they don't turn to other drugs, and so we can get them off of Ritalin and these horrible speed things that we put them on.

Now my 9-year-olds, they have known "Mama's medicine" from day one. And it's not for them to touch. It's a grown-up thing, and it's medicine. I have always called it "medicine."

Do you feel we're progressing in regard to getting non-consumers involved in advocating for marijuana?

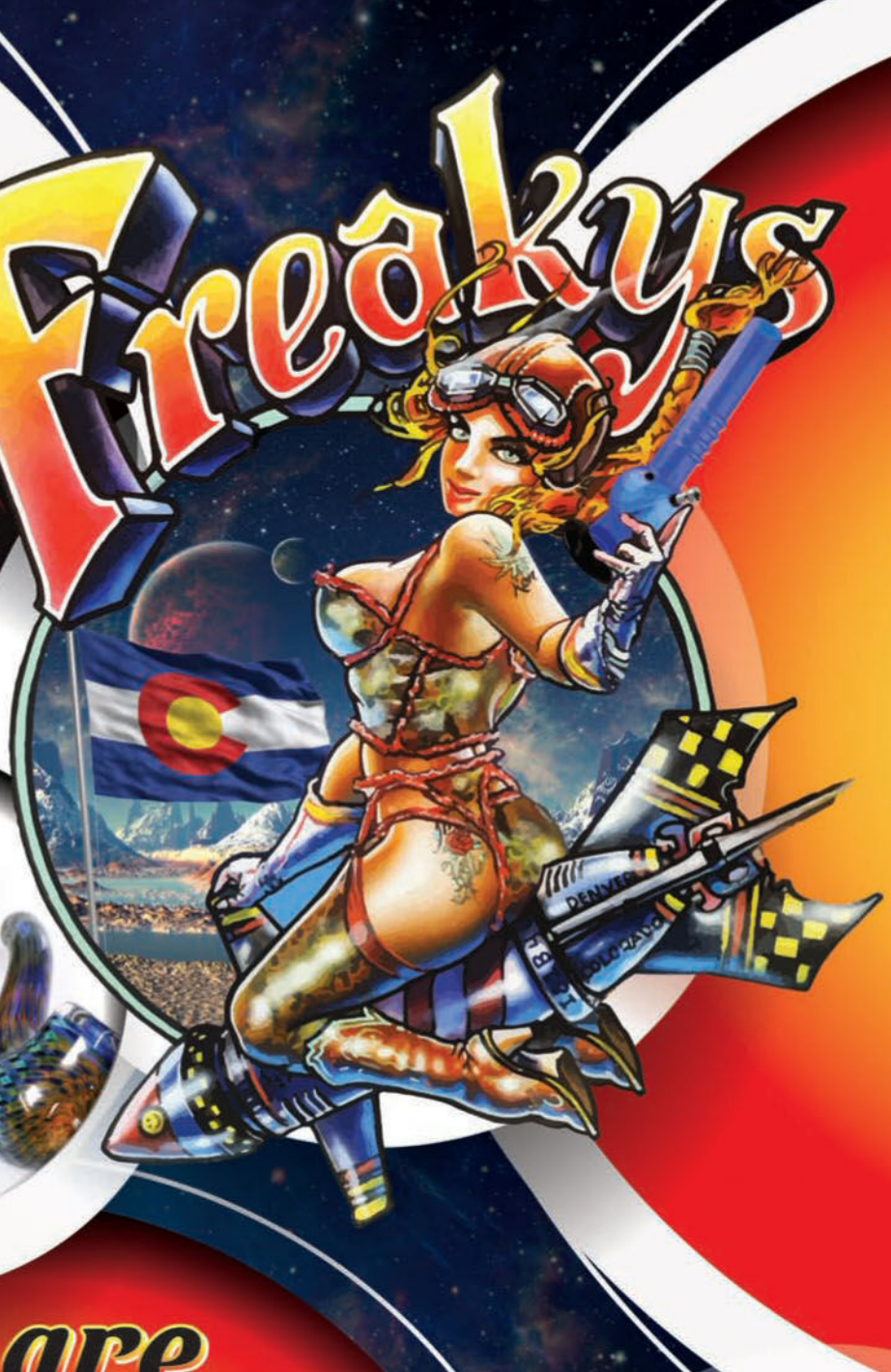
All over the nation, you can see states having a real discussion about it. I mean, there's still some of the ridiculous stuff: "It really makes you stupid," that sort of thing. Yet there are more and more people stepping up and saying, "This is medicine." This is a *medicinal* discussion that we're having.

So much of it has to do with our minds and all the things that are connected with plants and the earth and just a different way to think about it. So we, as a people, we are driving this change. It just takes people with patience and a sort of belief. I don't know how many years it's going to take, but I've always believed that if we just all *start* this, we've got to get there. And we have. I look back two years: Two years ago, it wasn't this comfortable. I think we're doing amazing things. What it's going to take are people who don't necessarily want to smoke, but really want to see a healthier family and a healthier country. We can do it. 🌿

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Big indoor yields of dry branches like this require the right lighting.

SUBJECT: **Lighting for Yields**

FROM: **Mak**

🌱 I'm planning on starting my own grow. I've grown before, but only one plant—but this time I plan to have eight and dedicate a small room in my home to the operation. I was wondering what your recommendation is for lighting that will get the biggest yield in an indoor grow? Also, how long should I veg my plants before flowering them if I would like to yield a pound from each?

Dear Mak,

For the biggest yields, you must use high-intensity discharge (HID) lighting, such as metal halide (MH) or high-pressure sodium (HPS), which are the indoor grower's choice for heavy harvests. I recommend the new ceramic metal halides if you want to get the most bang for your buck.

But if you want to yield a pound per plant indoors while growing eight plants, you'll need essentially one light per plant. In what you describe as a small room, I think it's more realistic to aim for eight plants that will yield 1 pound total, meaning that each plant will ultimately yield 2 ounces. I recommend planting them in 5-gallon containers and vegetating them for five weeks before inducing flowering.

Danko Tip: One drop of liquid detergent per gallon of water works as a surfactant to help the nutrient solution penetrate soil and get to the plant roots.



Small spaces can produce plenty of pot.

SUBJECT: **Micro-Grow**

FROM: **The Smoke Tree, a.k.a. Dopesmoke**

🌿 I'm starting a closet grow in a filing cabinet. It's pretty big—about 6 feet tall and 2.5 feet in diameter—and has four drawers. I'm going to remove everything inside but still make it look like a filing cabinet, with the drawers appearing to be still in place. In this kind of setup, what's a good soil mix to use for my plants? What kind of lighting should I install in the cabinet? And what kind of nutrients should I be using? I'm a *sativa* cat, but I kinda want short-to-medium-size, bushy-as-fuck plants with a lot of colas. I know that *indicas* are relatively smaller, so what would be a good strain to start off with?

Dear Tree,
Micro-growing is a great hobby as long

as you keep a few things in mind. The most important factor in any grow space, but especially a small one, is environmental control. Heat builds up quickly and can destroy your plants in a short period of time. Ensuring air circulation is important in order to remove the hot, spent air and replenish the area with fresh, cool, CO₂-rich air.

Lighting for a micro-grow should take environmental conditions into account. If you don't think you'll be able to remove the heat generated by HID lighting, then you should consider using LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs or compact fluorescent lights.

As for the soil mix and nutrients, I recommend going with the organic varieties available from your local nursery, as opposed to anything you can get at the hardware store or the low-cost big-box

emporium. Mild, oxygenated compost tea is great for everyday feeding, along with the occasional supplement such as seabird or bat guano or liquid seaweed.

As for strains, if you prefer *sativas*, don't waste your time growing *indica*-dominant plants just because they may be easier to fit into your setup or take a few weeks less to mature. Indulge yourself and grow the variety that makes you happiest, the one you'd like to return to time and time again. For me it's Strawberry Cough or Guava Chem, but for you it may be something else entirely. Learn the strain and you'll be able to train it into any shape you want it to grow in.

SUBJECT: **No Leaves**

FROM: **Mr. Ed**

🌿 I have a small plant going, but it has only minimal leaves growing off it. The plant is about 2 feet tall, with only four leaves on the main body and two small shoots coming off where I topped it. The two shoots have one leaf apiece, so that's a total of six leaves altogether and the plant is maybe six weeks old. Do you have any tips on how I can get it growing more?

Dear Ed,
Without more information, I have to conclude that your plant isn't receiving enough light. Your six-week-old plant should have many more leaves on it by now, and the first culprit has to be a lack of lumens. Get your plant outdoors under the full sun, or indoors under a good grow light, or your marijuana-growing experiment is destined for failure.

SUBJECT: **Old Mother Plant**

FROM: **Karen S.**

🌿 I was just given a mother plant in a 5-gallon bucket. The people who had her weren't going to use her any more, I guess due to age. I took some cuttings from her, and they're doing great. The mom is also doing much better now than when I got her, but I wonder how I can keep her around for a couple more years. She's outside on the deck now and has been for three weeks.

Dear Karen,
If you want to hold on to this mother plant for an extended period of time,

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- Edibles

you're going to have to bring it inside and keep it under a grow light of some kind. Mother plants must be kept in the vegetative stage in order to prevent them from flowering; this way, you can take clones from them anytime you want and have identical rooted plants to grow out and flower.

My suggestion is to get yourself a 4' x 4' grow tent and a 250- or 400-watt MH light, and keep the mother plant inside the tent under that light indefinitely. If you think an HID light would create too much heat for you, then get a compact fluorescent or LED light instead.



SUBJECT: **Transplant Shock**

FROM: **Patrick O.**

🌱 Should I transplant from a 5-gallon container into a 15-gallon pot? These are outside plants. Would it stress them out too much?

Dear Patrick,
The degree to which transplantation harms a plant depends on when the transplanting is done and how gently it's accomplished. Any transplanting should be done during the vegetative stage of the plant's growth—ideally in the final two to three weeks before flowering is induced—and not during the flowering stage.

That's because no matter how gently a plant is transplanted, it will take several days to a week for it to recover from the shock, and you can't afford to lose this time during the flowering stage, when the plant is supposed to be using its energy to pack on buds. The only exception would be a heavily root-bound plant that absolutely must be transplanted during the flowering stage to save it, but this is a mistake that should have been avoided with an earlier transplant.

For the best results, thoroughly water the plant in its original container to ensure that the soil and root ball stay together without crumbling apart. Prepare the new container with some of your planting mix, then gently remove the plant from the original pot. (I like to hold it by the trunk at the base and turn the entire pot upside down.) Place the plant into the new container and backfill the remaining mix around the outside. Water it in and fill any remaining gaps, keeping in mind that the plant may droop for a few hours before bouncing back strong.

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Danko Tip: Any new plant material entering your garden should be quarantined for at least a week before sharing a space with the other plants.

SUBJECT: **Oil Slick**

FROM: **Fred G.**

🌱 I had a scale infestation recently, so I used neem oil and fruit-tree spray (also 99% neem oil). I followed the directions carefully but still lost all of my fan leaves. Later, I rinsed the buds with water several times to rid them of the neem. It's been two weeks since they were sprayed last, but I can still smell it. I'm hoping that letting them grow a bit longer will rid them of the neem (they need a couple more weeks anyway). If time doesn't fix it, I guess I'll make edibles?

I started sterilizing my soil (to kill eggs) but discovered I wasn't doing it long enough. Now I use a meat thermometer and cook the soil until it's 190°F in the center. I use a big turkey-roasting pan, pack the soil (peat-based) down, and add 2 to 3 cups of water. I add organic nutrients and adjust the PH with dolomite later. The scale that was on my plants couldn't be seen with the naked eye (tiny). They sure could ravage a plant, though.

Another thing I'd like to point out to other noobs: I grew schwag for three years—not intentionally, but because I never had good genetics. I had seeds that came from good weed (I thought). The plants always looked healthy, but they weren't potent. Then I bought some seeds from the Netherlands, and that set me back another year: They were the worst seeds ever and made me think (even more strongly) that I was doing something wrong. Eventually, I found one seed that was the key to everything. I've been cloning it ever since—it's very, very good stuff! I should have never listened to the idiots on the forums: They like to blame everything on Miracle-Gro or whatever your soil or nutrient system is. I think I may plant one of my clones in Miracle-Gro just to see how good it comes out—I doubt it will be as tasty as my organic stuff, but I bet it won't be bad! In my opinion, genetics are *the* most important thing.

Dear Fred,

Thanks for the tips on soil sterilizing and genetics—I agree on both counts! As for neem oil, the key is to rinse it off after using it, and it may take a few rinses to get it all off. The loss of your fan leaves is certainly unfortunate. I think if you try a more diluted formulation next time, you won't have an issue with either losing leaves or lingering oil.

SUBJECT: **Light Switch**

FROM: **Matt**

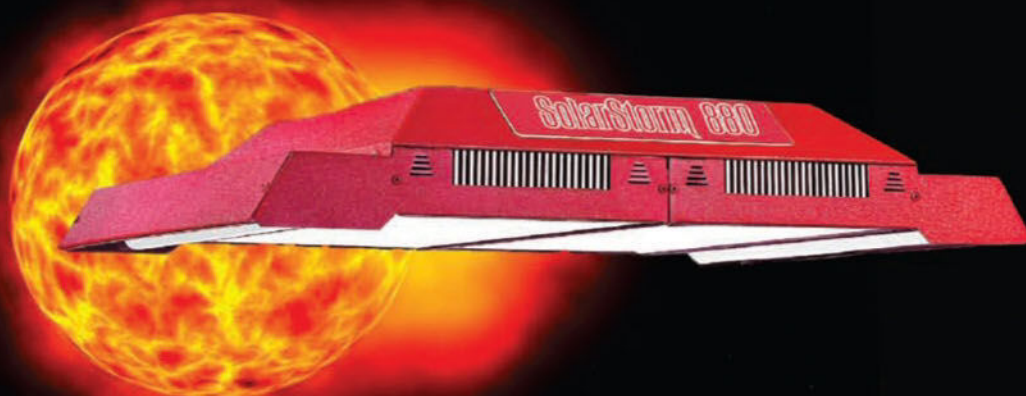
🌱 I have a 600-watt HPS light that's barely been used. I wanted to start some seeds for outdoors. Would it be okay to veg them using the HPS, or would that induce early flowering?

Dear Matt,

Yes, if necessary, you can vegetate plants under an HPS light. Experts usually recommend it for the flowering stage due to the spectrum, but your plants will remain in the vegetative stage as long as they receive more than 16 hours of light per day, regardless of the light's spectrum. Ideally, you would use MH lighting during the vegetative stage because it more closely mimics the natural light in spring and summer. But flowering will only be induced by changing the light cycle to 12 hours on/12 hours off per day—unless you're growing auto-flowering strains, of course. ✨

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2 Pests Aside

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Infestations can stop a productive garden dead in its tracks, which is why ganja farmers are always on the lookout for products to repel insects and fungi. We love the new **Green Cleaner**, an all-natural formula that not only suffocates and kills spider mites, broad mites and russet mites but also guards against powdery mildew, limiting spore reproduction and dehydrating the mold. Spray it on, and bugs and mildew are *gone*.

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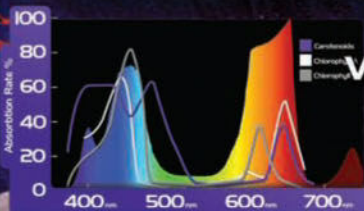
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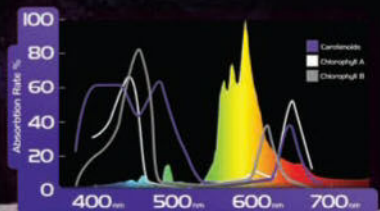
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Edibles



Satisfy your chocolate cravings with this easy recipe!



Dark Chocolate Blender Pudding

12 oz. dark-chocolate chips
4 eggs, at room temperature
4 tsp. cannabutter, melted
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. almond extract (optional)
1 pinch salt
1 cup very hot coffee
2 oz. chopped dark chocolate (optional)

In a blender, combine the chocolate chips, eggs, cannabutter, vanilla, almond extract and salt. Pulse a few times to break the chocolate chips into pieces. Remove the lid of the blender and pour in the hot coffee, continuing to blend at a low speed. Replace the lid and blend for two minutes, until the pudding is silky smooth.

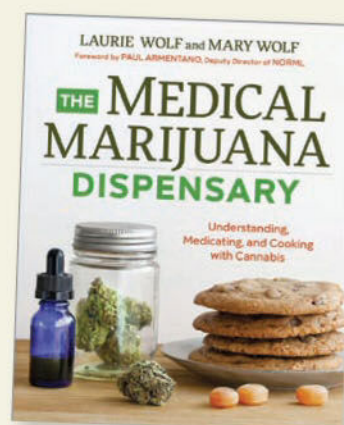
Next, pour the mixture into individual pudding bowls. Allow to set in the refrigerator for at least three hours. Before serving, top with chopped dark chocolate if desired. (To test the dosage, eat half a serving and wait four hours to fully assess your reaction to its strength and effects.) Cover the remaining bowls with plastic wrap and store in the refrigerator for up to five days. *Serves four.*

Pot Pudding

Enjoy a dankly decadent delight with this easy, no-cook cannabis chocolate pudding.

By Laurie Wolf

With a velvety texture and a deep, rich taste, this pudding is almost too easy to be true! Keep in mind that this no-cook recipe calls for eggs. Although the hot coffee will slightly cook them, you may not want to consume undercooked eggs if you have a weakened immune system. This recipe is gluten-free, soy-free, nut-free and vegetarian.



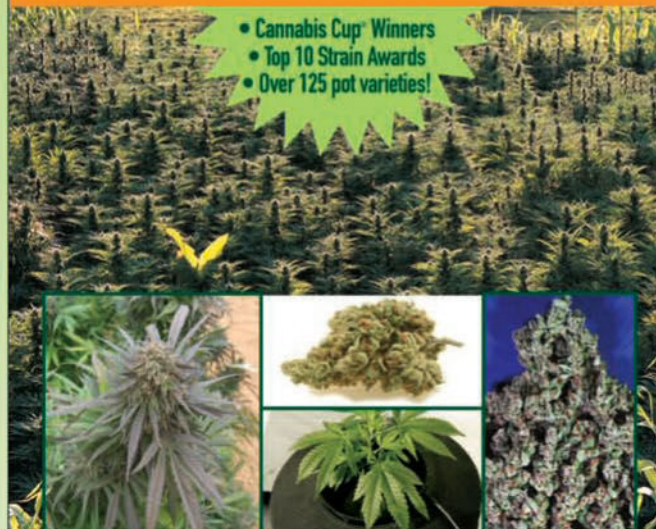
The Medical Marijuana Dispensary: Understanding, Medicating, and Cooking with Cannabis

From veteran edibles chef Laurie Wolf and her mother, Mary Wolf, comes this valuable guide to using cannabis as a "medible": 45 delicious recipes accompanied by strain profiles, patient testimonials and tips for cultivating at home. This is a wonderful book for those who need a crash course in cooking with cannabis, intended to help patients design their own medical marijuana treatment programs.

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bakedbees.com



Honey Pot

Using local wildflower honey, the team at Honey Pot creates cannabis-infused honey, teas and topicals that have garnered five High Times Cannabis Cup awards thus far. Pioneers in the CBD market with a variety of THC/CBD formulations, Honey Pot has the perfect product for every patient! Check out their line of Honey Pot Bears—dosed at 15 mg of THC per tablespoon, each large bear contains 250 mg total. honeypotbear420.com

Critical Concentrates

Fresh off a first-place win in the CBD edibles category, this organic, solvent-free healing honey balances THC and CBD in a one-to-one ratio for maximum benefits. Critical also produces hydrocarbon extracts, solvent-free oil and vape tanks. criticalconcentrates.com

Flavor of the Month

Paleo Pot Food

Eat clean and healthy with medicated cookies from Moonman's Mistress.



"We really believe that you can heal your body with food," Moonman's Mistress co-founder Liz Rudner says. "So we use 100 percent organic ingredients and outdoor organic cannabis."

After discovering that medical marijuana helped her cope with celiac disease and Hashimoto's thyroiditis, Rudner teamed up with fitness professional Jamel Ramiro to create a line of five different cookies, designed to be tasty and properly dosed with 25 mg of THC—as well as Paleo, gluten-free, wheat-free, soy-free, dairy-free and low on the glycemic index. Using healthy, high-quality ingredients—including almond flour, coconut oil, maple syrup, hemp seeds and pecans—to craft their confections allows those with dietary restrictions to enjoy comforting flavors like Chocolate Chip Crater Cookies, Cosmic Cacao Peppermint Cookies and Lunar Lemon Maca Shortbread Cookies while still nourishing the body. moonmansmistriss.com

They Put Pot in What Now?!



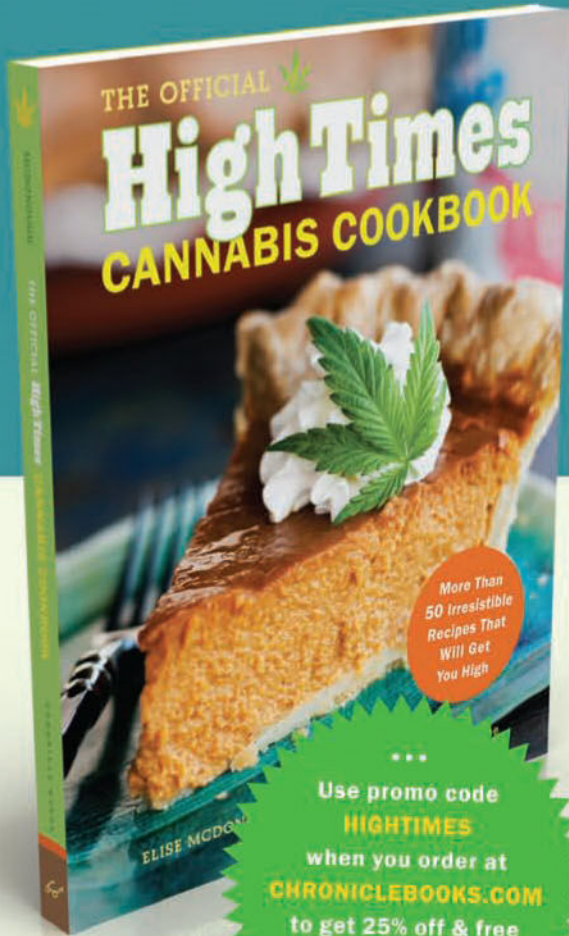
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Ganja Facts

High anxiety, impaired driving and THC/CBD

Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

What's the latest on cannabis and anxiety?

Woody Allen

Hello Woody, Recent longitudinal data show that, although the plant may be popular among the fretful, cannabis use doesn't lead to any of the anxiety disorders. Some people suffering from panic have turned to the plant for relief, but I promise that a dozen sessions of psychotherapy can nix panic so that folks can enjoy their cannabis even more!

If cannabidiol alters THC's effects, then how can a THC test determine if someone is too impaired to drive?

Kickin Trucker

Hi KT, Don't get me started! CBD does decrease THC's subjective and memory effects, but we don't know if it changes performance on motor tasks. But that's only the beginning of why we need roadside sobriety tests—not blood samples—to determine impairment.

Does cannabidiol turn into THC in the stomach?

Elastigirl

Hi Elastigirl, One experiment using the enzymes and chemicals central to digestion did find that CBD broke down to form some THC—but let's not get too freaked out yet. If this phenomenon actually occurs in humans, then children who need CBD medication to

control seizures or other ailments would still be exposed to only small amounts of THC. Any sedating or disorienting effects would cause few problems, as long as the doses were taken in the evening before bed. The little tykes could also use a vaporizer with a standardized dose, too.



Behold! The cannabis plant's glorious resin heads

What is it about today's plants that lead to more THC? I mean, a stem is still a stem, and a bud is still a bud. Where's the extra THC?

Stevie Wonder

Yo Stevie, Most THC is found in the resin heads of the plant's glandular trichomes, which are bigger depending on the strain's potency. Indeed, the diameter of these heads in a high-THC strain is often 50 percent larger than those in industrial hemp or a low-THC strain. ✨

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.

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POT AND THE NFL

continued from page 92

by a Hall of Fame player, one of the greatest to ever play the game—I saw he didn't have a problem with marijuana, and it didn't affect him badly one way or another. I knew right away that cannabis could be there for me, too.

Cannabis has great benefit in dealing with your body. I've found, since being completely away from opiates, that I can deal with my problems; I can deal with my pain. It's no longer an issue of trying to mask it or take it away. I'm able to accept what I've done to myself and wear it as a badge of honor, because it was quite an accomplishment. I don't think I'd be able to do that psychologically if I didn't find what I've found in cannabis, with a strain that allows me to be completely clear—Jack Herer. I've found these *sativa*-dominant hybrid strains to be really medicinal as far as dealing with anxiety. Jack Herer and Dutch Treat, I compare to psych medications. My health is as good as it's been in a long time. I have orthopedic issues, but I don't think that pain ever goes away, no matter what you're using.

It's almost two years since I quit opiates. These pills change your personality, change your brain. I haven't had one suicidal thought or episode, which were frequent at times, and I'm no longer depressed. Using cannabis was a night-and-day difference. As I freed myself, I came to realize: "Holy shit! These pills really were as big if not a bigger part of the problem."

I played 109 games in the NFL, but many practices are harder than games. Training camp's harder than games—you run more plays in training camp than you do the entire season. It's these sub-concussive blows that go unnoticed constantly. People don't take into account that they build up over time into this disease, CTE. A year and a half ago, I was diagnosed with pre-onset Alzheimer's and dementia. Since getting off all those opiates, my cognitive function and memory is firing like it's not fired in six years.

I'm tired of trying to answer the question "Why do you think

cannabis is illegal?" I use cannabis. That's all I use. I don't take aspirin; I don't take Aleve; I don't take anything. I use cannabis. You can't look for an answer in a pill. If you have two arms and two legs, your answer lies inside your body that gets up every day and moves. You have to figure out what works for you, how to get your life back. Cannabis is a component in centering yourself, in finding yourself again. It's allowed me to get back to being who I am.

We've created this game that's so dependent on money that it forgoes giving good information to players at the potential expense or liability of affecting that bottom line.

We had an economic crash a few years ago that wiped out an entire class of NFL players who'd retired. The rug was pulled out. So on top of having to deal with that, maybe you've got a brain injury on track to be dementia or early-onset Alzheimer's. Talk to any player, and these things are happening. They're sitting around at times contemplating suicide. They're sitting around depressed constantly and having rage outbursts. It happens over and over again, and it doesn't need to happen, because the medicine in cannabis deals with that. It allows you to deal with your emotions; it gives you your vigor back, and the pause and calm you need to analyze what's happening in front of you and not have these on-the-field dementia flashbacks.

I don't regret anything about my career, but I do regret listening to the doctors. They didn't give a shit about me, and I should have known better. I shouldn't have listened to them or the coaches who tried to prod me to get back out there. I had major concussions and a serious back injury, but I listened to people who didn't have a vested interest in my career.

We have no medications in Western medicine that stop the progression of Alzheimer's or address brain injuries. But there's cannabis. Let's implement new protocols in dealing with these injuries. The knowledge is there, and the NFL has enough money to lead. ✨



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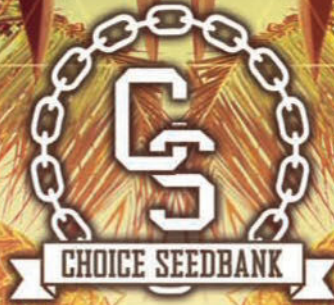
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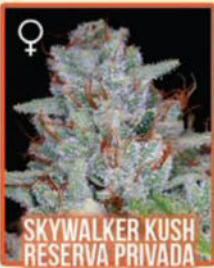
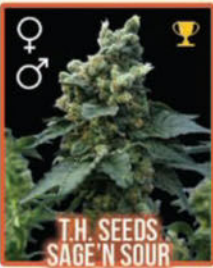
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The Rear-View Mirror

Don't get too comfortable: The losers haven't given up yet!

Allen St. Pierre is the former executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

ANTI-POT CRUSADERS UNDERSTAND that the legalization of cannabis is far more likely than not these days. They recognize that they probably won't succeed in beating back the many efforts nationwide to reform our marijuana laws. Recent polls show that nearly 60 percent of the public is in favor of ending pot prohibition once and for all.

However, cannabis-law reformers shouldn't declare victory quite yet: Even in the recreational states like Colorado, Washington and Oregon, efforts are being made to seriously restrict consumer choice and create legal hazards for producers and sellers.

The anti-pot forces are now focusing their efforts on a two-pronged approach. The first is a push to limit the THC potency of all cannabis products to 15 percent. The effect on the cannabis industry would be severe: Currently, almost every salve, edible, hash, oil, concentrate and even many botanicals have a potency that is considerably higher than 15 percent. According to states that maintain regulatory and taxation data, there's a strong consumer demand for high-potency cannabis products.

The second prong in the new attack



After a half-century of activism, we're still fighting.

by the anti-pot crusaders is their pursuit of an extremely misleading and unscientific warning label on all cannabis-related products: "Marijuana causes permanent brain damage." Such absurd labeling would set the cannabis industry up to be henpecked to death by lawsuits.

If these ideas become politically viable, marijuana consumers and the cannabis industry must work together to oppose such backdoor efforts to both

impugn cannabis products and severely limit consumer choice. Our community has fought too hard to see our political victories squandered by inattentiveness.

So even as cannabis-law reformers look forward to more victories this fall, a united cannabis industry remains of paramount importance. We must continually check the rear-view mirror to make sure that anti-marijuana organizations stay off our bumper. ✨

FREEDOM FIGHTER

El Paso Hero

Two cancer deaths in his family drive the passionate activism of Colt DeMorris.

In 2009, Colt DeMorris lost his mother to a long and painful battle with cancer. Living in Texas with no access to medical marijuana, Colt's mom was forced to depend on a cocktail of pharmaceutical drugs that greatly depreciated her quality of life.

Shortly after her passing, Colt decided that he would use his mother's experience to educate as many people as possible about the need for medical marijuana. He started the Facebook page "Cannabis Users United," which quickly drew more

than 11,000 followers. During this time, Colt realized there was no prominent pro-marijuana organization operating in the El Paso area. So he formed El Paso NORML and was chosen as the organization's first executive director.

Colt's activism is focused on securing safe access for all patients, fighting to end the criminal penalties for use or possession, and promoting the economic benefits that follow legalization.

As executive director of El Paso NORML, he forged a close working relationship with his



state representative, Joe Moody. Together, they have worked tirelessly to reform marijuana laws in Texas.

Colt's relationship with the state legislator began after he took a copy of Washington, DC's decriminalization bill to a meeting with Moody. "I have an idea," he said. "If this is good enough for our nation's capital, it's good enough for Texas." That meeting was the inspiration for Moody's decriminalization bill, which many Texans consider their first and best shot at marijuana-law reform thus far.

Sadly, Colt's wife, Toni DeMorris,

lost her battle with a very aggressive form of cervical cancer earlier this year. As with his mother's death, Toni's passing is another powerful motivation for Colt to keep up the fight. The topic is always at the forefront of his activism, and he discusses it feely with supporters and opponents alike.

"Texans are ready for sensible cannabis-law reform and have been for some time," Colt says. "We have dedicated advocates and activists across Texas working hard and diligently to end cannabis prohibition in the state. Thanks to all of those working so hard, Texas will not be last!"

By Kevin Mahmalji, NORML national outreach coordinator

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MALLY MALL PRODUCES A NEW HIT!

Acclaimed hip-hop producer Mally Mall has joined the cannabis industry. He's now producing Mally Elite, a new line of exquisite products for the discerning stoner.



Are you new to the cannabis community?

I just recently got involved in the industry, but cannabis has always been a lifestyle for me. I did my music and other business ventures, but I'm a part of the cannabis community. I'm a patient myself—for years. I have insomnia. I used to take Ambien when I was younger to

sleep, because I'm in the studio late hours. They say if you don't sleep before 3 or 4 in the morning, you kind of roll over into the next day. So I smoke to sleep.

Why did you decide to get into the industry?

B-Real is known as an ambassador of the cannabis world. And I saw Wiz Khalifa

and Berner turning it into a big, multimillion-dollar business—and they're giving back to the patients. They bring a lot of awareness about cannabis to their music.

You've started your own product line, Mally Elite. Tell us about it.

Well, CHR is a dispensary

located in Los Angeles. It's been around for a while. Mike and Trinity worked hard to create that company for the patients.

I met them at a convention, and we just kind of clicked. They decided to go with me because of my network and my Rolodex, as far as me being a producer, not just an artist. We

came up with Mally Elite, the brand, because the urban community and a lot of the hip-hop and music world are involved in cannabis.

Mike, our CEO, decided on the name Mally Elite; then he named a strain MnM Cookies. We just ran with it, and it snowballed. So we kept pushing it.

I work with everybody, and I can bring everyone to the table. We got Chris Brown, Migos, Chief Keef. We got Sean Kingston, Soulja Boy—all the real lifestyle artists of the cannabis community are supporting it.

MnM Cookies seems to have become a highly prized strain.

Thanks to our grower, and I won't disclose his name here because somebody will try to steal him from us. I'll just tell you this: He's a pretty white

boy. He takes pride in the product like a five-star chef.

It's a hybrid strain, but we got a couple of secrets we can't tell you guys about just yet.

Our CEO Mike is serious about the whole operation from start to finish. From the employees to customer service to patient awareness, we make sure that we do everything by the book, 100 percent. But we're all partners—we all make it happen.

What's your ultimate goal now?

We want to give back to the patients, number one—give them the best product, the best quality. A lot of people use chemicals and push their product too fast. Our number-two goal is to be number one, right?

With MnM Cookies, I'm very shocked and surprised: I knew it was gonna do good, but I literally have people calling me from London. The Green House in Amsterdam is calling, asking: "How do we get this here in a legitimate way? Let's legally figure out how we can do this." We got people from all over the world. They just love the strain.

Has your expertise in the music industry translated into success in this one?

I've produced music since I was 16—I worked on Tupac's stuff, I worked with Drake, then I worked with Tyga. It snowballed into working with everybody from Lil Wayne to Justin

Bieber. Now I'm crossing over into the EDM world.

We know that a lot of artists love to smoke, and a lot of rock stars love to smoke. It helps us create in the studio; it opens our mind and relaxes us. It helps open those vibes and create new waves of energy while you create music. It makes the music better, it makes it more organic—it just makes it flow better. And the cannabis community definitely helps the music too. It's just those good vibes, those great vibes—that's what people wanna hear. They wanna see their music translate into the lifestyle, you know what I mean? ●

A lot of rock stars love to smoke. It helps us create in the studio; it opens our mind and relaxes us. It helps open those vibes and create new waves of energy while you create music.



Mally Elite recently debuted its new strain MnM Cookies. Bakewoods is its new infused cannabis doobie!

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WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR SOME BOSTON CREAM PIE.

WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR SOME RESPECT AROUND HERE.

 A character with a skull for a head, wearing a cowboy hat, a pink shirt, a brown vest, and tan pants, stands in a vast, dark maze under a full moon. A small, yellow, worm-like creature is at his feet.

THROUGH ENDLESS NIGHT HE PLODS, ONE THOUGHT FOREMOST IN HIS MIND...

YELLOW CAKE. CREAM FILLING. CHOCOLATE FROSTING.

I COULD GO FOR THAT. I EAT BUGS, MOSTLY. BUGS AND WORMS.

 The character is shown in a circular frame, looking thoughtful. The background is dark with some faint, glowing patterns.

A SIGN APPEARS.

THAT'S THE KIND OF THING YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WALK TOWARD.

HIS SPIRIT RENEWED, THE LEAN RANGER STAGGERS ON A FEW MILES MORE.

 A close-up of the character's skull, showing his teeth and a determined expression. A bright, starburst light is visible in the background.

AT LAST...

YOUR SIGN?

A MENTAL PROJECTION, MATERIALIZED BY YOUR WISH FULFILLMENT.

KIDDING! I FOUND IT NEAR ONE OF THOSE ROUTE 66 MOTELS DESTROYED IN THE ANTI-MATTER WARS OF THE LATE 1960S.

SO YOU'RE SAYING NO WATER BEDS?

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 The character stands on a pile of rubble, looking up at a large, colorful neon sign for 'FIREBIRD MOTEL'. The sign features a stylized bird and the words 'TV HEATED POOL WATER BEDS'. A small figure is visible at the base of the sign.

CHIEF, YOU'VE FORGOTTEN MORE HISTORY THAN I EVER KNEW.

TRUE, AND I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN MUCH.

MY WIFE PACKED ME A BOSTON CREAM PIE. HAVE A PIECE.

OH GREAT SPIRIT, MAKE HIM DROP IT PLEASE.

STORY & ART BY PAUL KIRCHNER

 The character is kneeling and talking to a Native American man wearing a feathered headdress and a plaid shirt. The man is holding a pie. A large, stylized Native American symbol is in the background.



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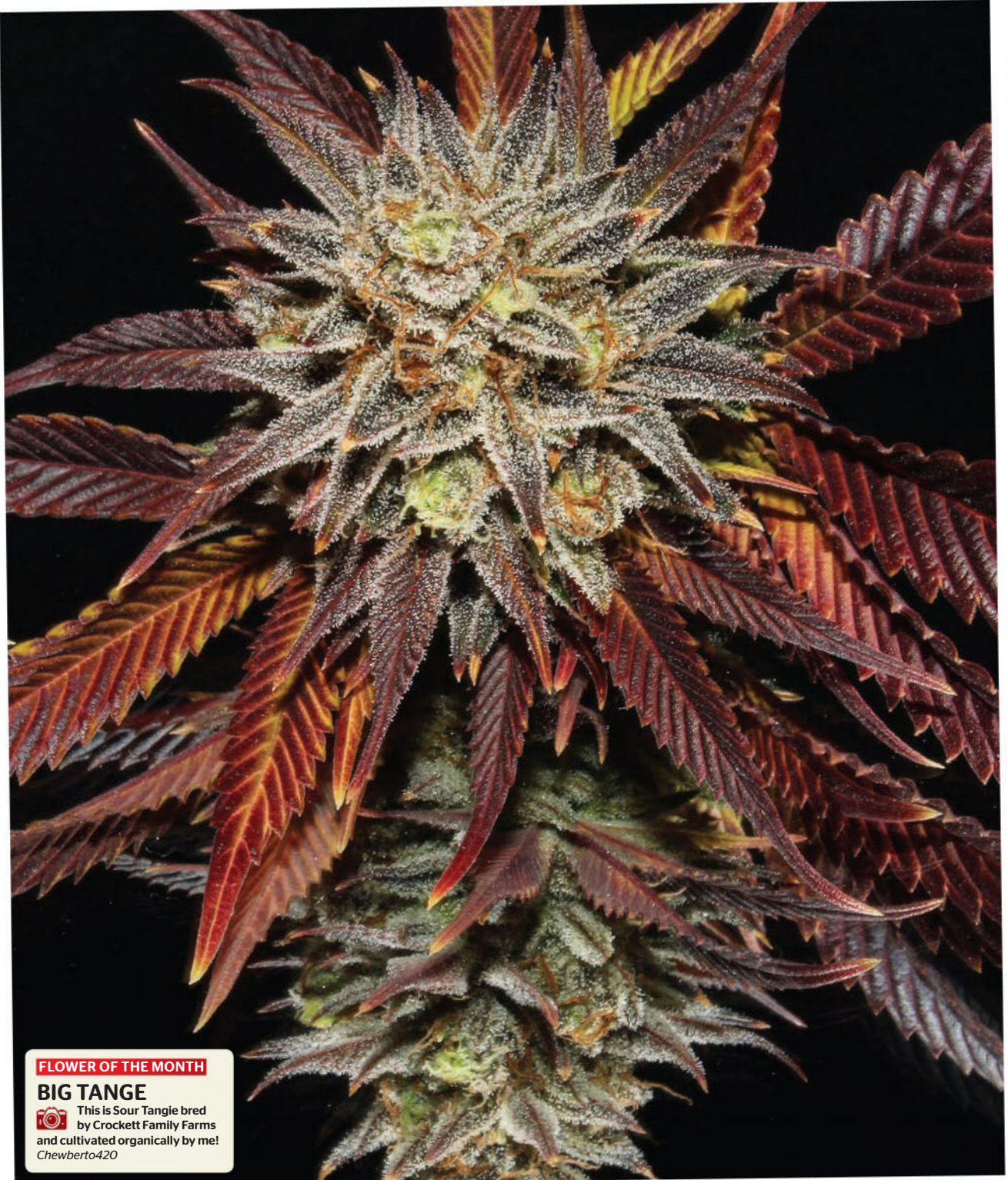
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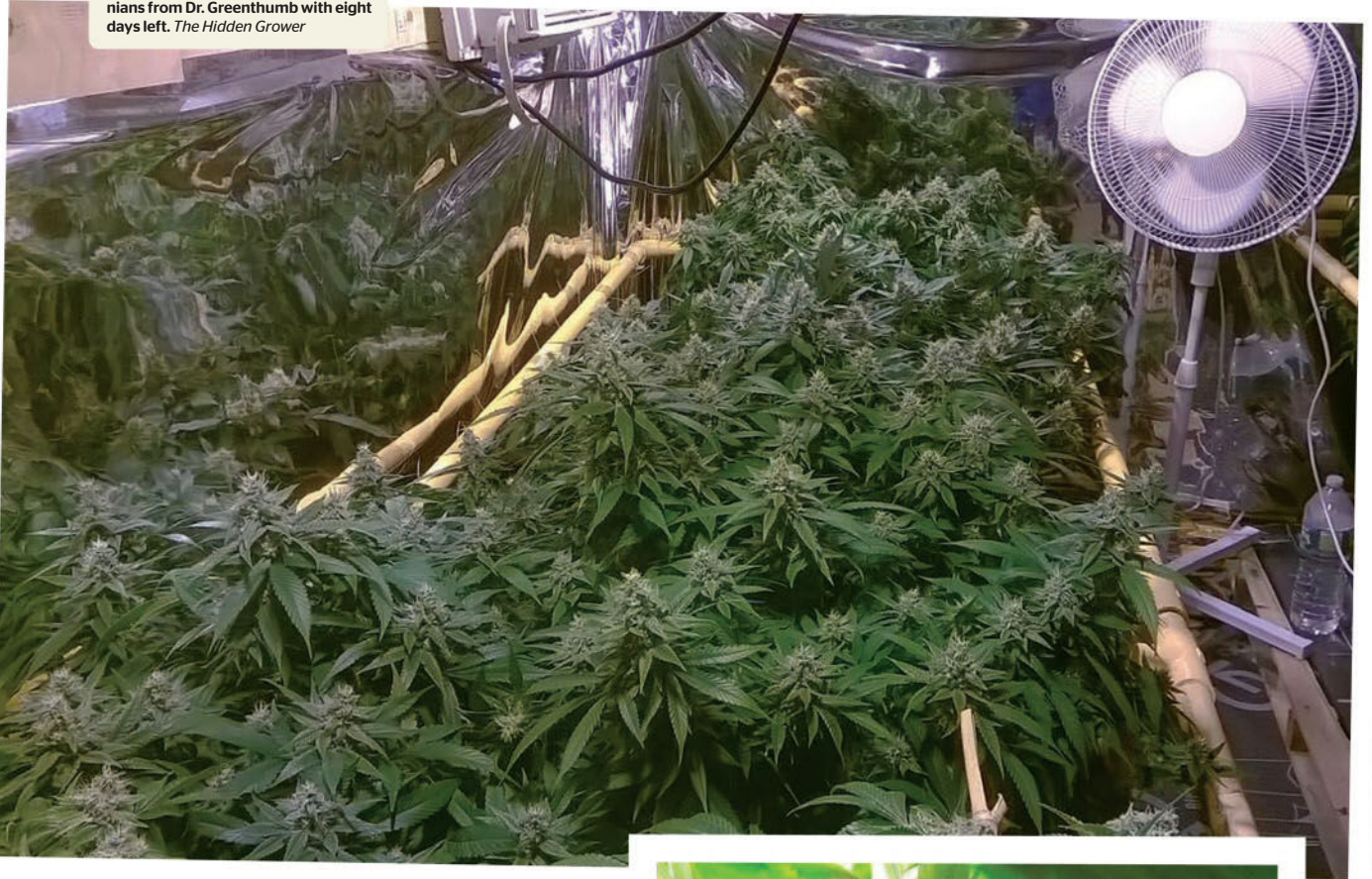
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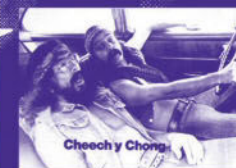
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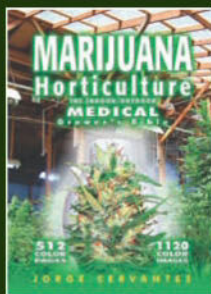


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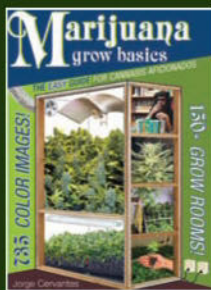
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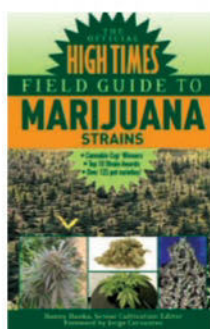


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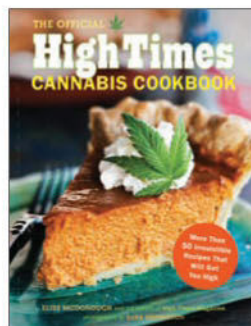


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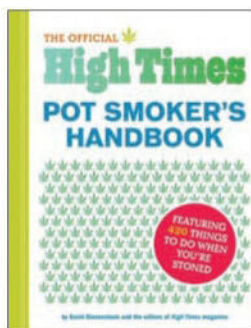
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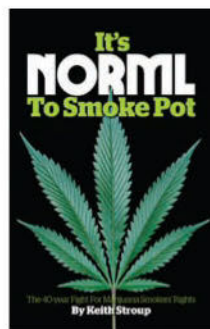
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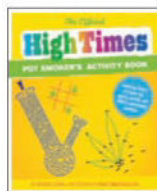
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- vfrerty** 40m
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- mr.and.mrs.stoned** 10w
I have this one! I've been through a couple of pens and this is THE BEST ONE YET!
- olizuni** 11w
@thisthingrips My pen is fantastic! Literally the best decision I've made
- boven29** 11w
I have owned multiple concentrate Pens. Spent probably upwards of \$1000 on different ones. That is until I found the OG. The thing rips harder than some rigs, you guys make a seriously quality product.
- bigmaam_nick** 9w
Quality pen! Really conserves the taste!
- lungblaster420** 13w
Thank you @thisthingrips! This is such an amazing product 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌
- insta_greamed** 15w
Iv had both a cloud pen and a this thing rips pen I can say from trial, this thing rips pen air circulation is way easier! better the cloud pen gunked up and never had a chance I use my @thisthingrips pen regularly with no problems at all and no reduction in air circulation 🙌 @abbysaznerd



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- highmindeddabber** 4w
My favorite pen!
- buzzkill_ed** 9w
This thing does in fact rip.
- xfourtwentykingx** 7w
Best vape pen hands down. Very happy customer #OGfour2.0 #thisthingrips
- gelle_337** 5d
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- _sliick_wifit_jit** 4d
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- thetravllingstoner** 4w
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- thfrk89** 51m
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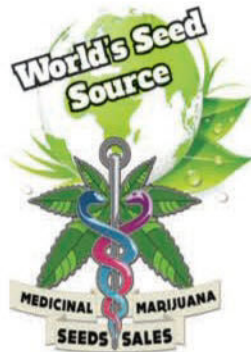
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