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HIGH TIMES

March 482

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HIGH TIMES MARCH



"Terps are the essential oils or primary building blocks of any plant resin, and they contribute a great deal to the scent, flavor and colors of the plant."

—The Best-Tasting Buds on Earth, page 46

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46 The Best-Tasting Buds on Earth

Your favorite terps are revealed! Using lab-testing technology and data collected from our Cannabis Cup competitions, we examine which terpenes affect the taste and smell of our favorite buds. *By Nico Escondido*

63 Green Light District

It's the number-one tourist attraction in the Danish capital of Copenhagen. The commune of Freetown Christiania may have finally gotten the legal recognition it deserves—but what about the open-air hash sales on "Pusher Street"? *By Sirius J*

74 Flavor Country

Journey to the fields of Northern California, where you'll tour a state-of-the-art greenhouse custom-designed by Crockett Family Farms and DNA Genetics to house crops of Tangie plants in an ideal growing environment. *By Elise McDonough*

89 Michigan's March to Legalization

Medical marijuana was approved by 63 percent of the voters in Michigan, but the program has been under fire ever since. Activists, growers and med-pot patients want the madness to end, and they're taking bold new steps to make that happen. *By Dan Skye*

99 Hail to the Chew

The most successful edibles company in the cannabis industry is Cheeba Chews, which produces over 50,000 marijuana-infused candies every week. With recreational pot now booming in Colorado, Cheeba Chews' kitchen is operating at full throttle. *By Samantha Nicholas*

109 The High Times Interview: Nick Diaz

When MMA star Nick Diaz was suspended for five years and fined \$165,000 by the UFC after a positive pot test, the cannabis community rallied to his cause. Diaz tells his side of the story. *By Dan Skye*

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Allie talks to the world!

High on the Street

The great thing about *High Times* being based in New York City is that the entire world seems to come here at one time or another. So we've made it our task to talk to everybody! (Well, not everybody—but almost.) The *High Times* video crew now hits the street regularly to conduct “man on the street” interviews. Of course, our man on the street is actually a woman—the vivacious Allie Peck, who you can find in Times Square or Columbus Circle or Central Park posing questions about pot to anyone and everyone. Join Allie as she traverses the Big Apple in “High on the Street.”

► Glass Artist of the Month

In August 2000, PB Torcher began shaping glass in a small community shop, where several glass artists influenced his style. After 13 months, his skill with the torch flourished. Now, with 15 years of experience under his belt, Torcher's work embodies a massive range of genres for glass enthusiasts to admire.

“I have a passion for variety and detail,” he says. “And I'm constantly reviewing my own techniques and processes in order to achieve the highest quality glass piece possible.”

He says that his influences have a wide range, which are reflected in his work. He creates glass with beautiful color fades inside precise, classic designs that encompass horrific products of his imagination or God-like sculptures. TORCHER Glass is now showcased regularly at the CHAMPS trade show in Las Vegas and is available in hundreds of stores across the US and online (torcherglass.com).

It's clear he embodies his name. He says: “The definition of ‘torcher’ is ‘one who travels to dark places with a torch, so we may broaden our surroundings and be open to new paths.’ That's my path!”

Check out more of Torcher's work online!



PB Torcher loves the macabre.



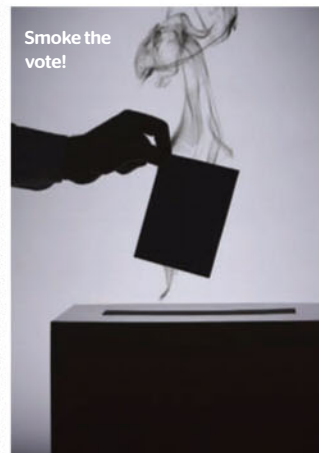
Stoned Quarry

► Hot Pot Photo Art

Over the years, editor-in-chief Dan Skye has made a habit of composing still life portraits of pot. Check out his online gallery of hot pot shots when Dan rolls out this clever, colorful homage to the herb!

► The HT Newsletter

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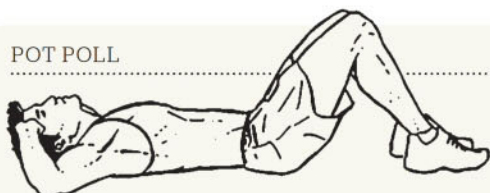


Smoke the vote!

Looking Back on 2015

Moving into the new year and looking ahead at the upcoming election season, we anticipate reaching many marijuana milestones in 2016. But last year was also full of (pun intended) highs that we'd be amiss not to reflect upon. We saw game-changing marijuana legislation introduced nationwide and watched drug offenders get released from prison. Cannabis is now more accepted by the general population than ever before. Countries are slowly changing their drug laws. We held the first-ever World Cannabis Cup in Jamaica. Sure, there were some lows as well, but overall, 2015 was a good year. Make sure to check out all of our online “Year in Review” coverage and “Best of 2015” galleries.

POT POLL



Do You Get High Before Working Out?

Who says stoners aren't in shape? In one of the biggest responses to our online polls we've ever received, over 6,000 weighed in on whether working out on weed is wonderful. Guess what? A healthy 56 percent of you definitely like working up a sweat while stoned. Seems like there are a lot of fitness buffs out there. Look for a comprehensive “Fitness & Pot” feature in an upcoming issue!

Cast your vote in our latest poll online!

31%	Always
25%	Frequently
24%	Now and then
13%	Never
6%	I don't work out

► Buds on the Ballot

Oh no! It's election season again! (Although it seems to have started months ago.) The Presidential primaries are now deciding the nominees for America's highest office. Stay up-to-date with us as we provide continuous substantive coverage of the 2016 election and what it means for legalization!

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Greetings, amigos!

Welcome to another epic edition of *High Times*, packed with the usual awesomeness of news, features, strains and, of course, glorious bud photography.

This month we're unveiling our newest feature, "The Best-Tasting Buds on Earth"—a guide that we hope will fast become an annual fixture with our readers. In today's terp-crazed cannabis world, the flavors of pot are nearly as important as its potency. Employing both sophisticated lab-test results and the Cannabis Cup's human analytics, this article is the first of its kind to compile strain-specific terpene profiles for some of the planet's tastiest lineages.

Also, given that some overly eager extract artists are beginning to adulterate their concentrates with non-cannabis-derived terpenes, it's more important than ever that we bring the focus back to the buds with the highest terp counts and thus the most intense and pleasing flavors and aromas, since there's no need to introduce foreign elements into our smoke. (After all, we don't want to see what happened to tobacco occurring with cannabis!) So as you read our guide to the world's best-tasting strains, remember to #KeepItPure, because cannabis has everything you need already in it!

Also, this month we're expanding our edibles coverage, as our resident ganja gourmet, Elise McDonough, delves deeper into the world of cannabis-infused foods. With the plethora of new pot products—both edibles and topicals, such as balms and salves—coming onto the market, cannabis consumers have more choices than ever before, as well as a greater need to understand how these items are made and how they work with our bodies. You can also find expanded coverage from Elise on *hightimes.com*, along with stories, blogs, and up-to-date stats and information from all of our editors and correspondents around the globe.

As always, we thank you for reading and supporting the cause as we continue to evolve into a fully legal cannabis industry. And remember to grow... and help the world grow, too!

Stay well, everyone!

Nico Escondido
Cultivation Editor-at-Large

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Outdoor Advice

It's curious that outdoor growing doesn't seem to have evolved simultaneously with the cutting-edge indoor production techniques that can also apply outdoors. A predominance of outdoor growers shoot for—and boast about—multi-pound yields from gigantic 10-foot-tall bushes. Yet this old-school notion is very inefficient when you consider the square footage of the growing area. Moreover, only the upper canopy yields massively dense, high-quality nugs; the rest of the yield is typically mediocre—lots of impressive-looking plants that yield only marginally in terms of quality.

The ancients in Pakistan, Lebanon and along the Hindu Kush trail learned long ago about high-yield, high-quality production outdoors, and today's growers shouldn't change anything in that regard. Those fields looked like massive Sea of Green-style operations, and for good reason: The main cola is the highest-yielding and most potent part of every marijuana plant, so common sense tells you to maximize that focal point as much as possible for the best, most consistent results. Shorter plants are also easier to conceal behind fences and shrubs.

It's time to upgrade today's outdoor grows—this ain't the '70s anymore.

Scott Reach

Owner of Rare Dankness in Colorado.

Drug-Test Injustice

I work for a company that doesn't require drug tests as a general rule. However, if you're injured on the job, you *will* be tested and held liable for your medical expenses if you test positive. Obviously, where I work, only a fool would come to work stoned: I'm a sous chef, and there are open flames, hot surfaces and sharp blades everywhere. However, if I'm not stoned, how can my marijuana use be a contributing factor? At work, I'm a complete professional; then I go home, smoke a bowl and maybe lift weights. How much danger does relaxing with a bowl of kind bud after work pose to myself or my performance on the job? None that I can see.

Roger B.

You're right that no one should be penalized for testing positive for cannabis use if they're not actually high on the job. But as far as what makes a "complete professional," thousands of people work high, and neither their performance nor their safety is impacted.



"The ancients in Pakistan, Lebanon and along the Hindu Kush trail learned long ago about high-yield, high-quality production outdoors."

I've been working in the corporate world since 1989. Back then, I was told by everyone to drink pickle juice or take goldenseal if I got piss-tested before taking a job. That was back when it wasn't the norm—and it worked. Later, when pre-employment drug testing did become the norm, I was told to abstain from smoking for 30 days to pass the test. And that worked too.

At my last corporate job, I passed the pre-employment drug test. As I got to know the company culture, I found out that my employer required additional drug tests only when there was an accident or other problem.

In October, I was called into the HR office, where the administrator—along with my boss and the company's legal counsel—informed me that someone had sent them a video of me smoking marijuana out of a pipe. Though I didn't admit or deny anything, I was immediately taken to a third-party testing facility, where I was given a urine test and a hair-follicle test.

As a recreational marijuana smoker, I was dismayed at having to submit to the entire experience: After all, what negative effect did my pot use at home have on my performance as a marketing professional? I've been a marijuana smoker since I was 16; I'm now 49. It's part of

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my life, who I am and how I think. The urine test came back negative.

(How, I don't know, as I'd smoked a joint with my husband three days prior.) The hair-follicle test, as I'd expected, came back positive. When the clinic clerk called me a week later, she asked: "Do you have a doctor's prescription for marijuana?"

"Of course not," I replied, since Missouri has no medical marijuana law.

"Okay, I will inform your employer," she said.

And I was terminated the next day. The unfortunate twist to this story is that my husband was the person who sent the video to my employer, in an effort to strike back at me after I filed for divorce.

Alas, sending a video to someone isn't a crime. It was my own bad for violating the company's zero-tolerance drug policy, and even more for trusting my soon-to-be-ex-husband with my "indiscretion."

Corporate Cannabis Smoker

Majoring in Marijuana

I'm a senior at Southern Oregon University. I'm also a mother of three, a full-time student and a full-time caregiver who is currently researching the positive effects of cannabis on mental health. I'm one of the few students at SOU who has devoted her collegiate career to studying cannabis. After I graduate in June with my bachelor's degree in psychology, I want to earn a PhD with the end goal of developing a program that utilizes cannabis as a treatment for addiction. It's been a long road, but I won't give up. I hope to find continued support and knowledge through *High Times*, and possibly some opportunities for scholarships from individuals brave enough to value this research.

Thank you for keeping the cannabis community connected.

Kellie Donnelly

Good luck! Also, look for an article on addiction and harm reduction through cannabis use in an upcoming issue.

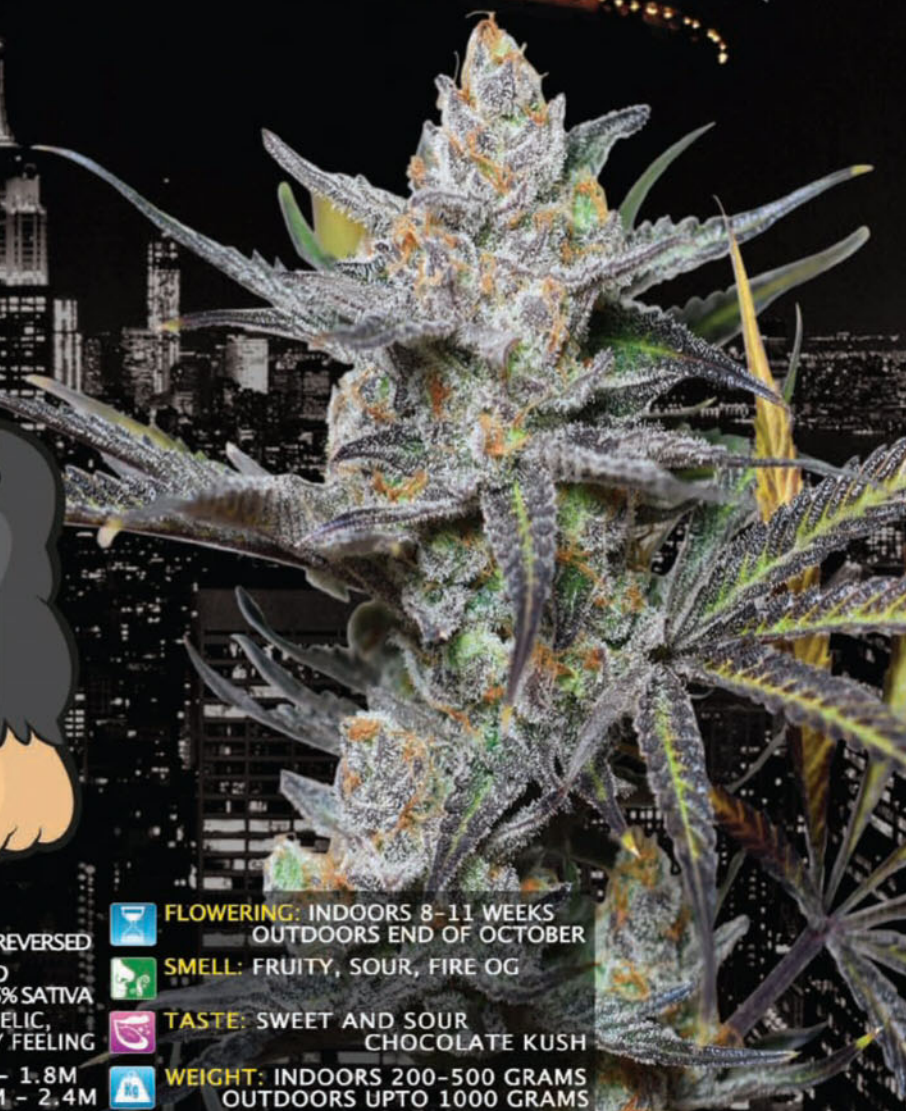
Correction: In the January issue, the photo of Nick Diaz was actually his brother Nate. We regret the error. Read our interview with Nick Diaz in this issue.



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March 2016 **High Times**

FLAVOR COUNTRY Go inside a state-of-the-art greenhouse built by DNA Genetics and Crockett Family Farms to house crops of Tangie, Strawberry Banana, Lemon Skunk and more. Learn how the legendary strain Tangie got its start and see what amazingly flavorful strains Crockett currently has in store on page 74. *Photo by Lochfoot*

**Contact
High**





March 2016 **High Times**

17

GARDEN TWINS These two nearly identical specimens of Purple OG #18 were basking in the autumn sun on Sunday. On Monday morning, Michigan State Police chopped them down. They also looted the property of growers. Why? Because state forfeiture laws allow cops to steal. Read "Michigan's March to Legalization" on page 89. *Photo by Dan Skye*

**Contact
High**

CHRISTIANIA

FOLKEAKTIE



CHRISTIANIA
FOLKEAKTIE



CAFE	OPEN
THAI	FOOD



GREEN LIGHT DISTRICT Only the graffiti reminds you you're still in the 21st century as you stroll through a neighborhood in Denmark at night with no cars and where very few people use cell phones. Learn more about Denmark's notorious community Freetown Christiania in "Green Light District" on page 63. *Photo by Sirius J.*

**Contact
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REBEL YELL

They live life to the beat of a different drummer, are sure of who they are and what they stand for.

They're the free and forward thinkers, innovators and creators whose ideas and words inspire, polarize, spark imaginations and powerfully connect.

They're rebels, outcasts, Davids in a world of Goliaths, that come from the least likely of places.

They tread where others fear to go, dislike conforming to the norm, and don't care much for the man or his machine because they truly embrace freedom.

It's hard to fool them because they have a clear perspective on the world and see things for what they really are.

They're fiercely aware of what's right and wrong, speak their minds and take no prisoners.

They look at life differently, society can't pigeon hole them or put them in box, and they see things where others don't.

Their ideas are sometimes out on the fringe, the ragged edge. They have to be, because they're open to the possibilities and realities that change the world.

Some see them as a fish out of water, trouble makers and oddballs. We see them as gifted, profound and uniquely brilliant.



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ResponsibleOhio mascot "Buddie" represents the group's failure to connect with voters.

The Ohio Debacle

How ResponsibleOhio's cartel-style legalization effort was defeated by the people. *By Jon Gettman*

A proposal to legalize marijuana in Ohio, put forward by a would-be cartel of 10 financial backers of the bill who would have gained exclusive commercial-cultivation rights in the state, lost overwhelmingly on November 3, 2015.

The initiative, sponsored by a group calling itself ResponsibleOhio, was included on the ballot as Issue 3, a measure that "Grants a monopoly for the commercial production and sale of marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes." Issue 3 managed to get just 1,122,386 "Yes" votes, or 35.9 percent of all votes cast; the "No" votes totaled 2,003,641, or 64.1 percent.

The initiative was supported by NORML on the grounds that, for better or worse, it legalized marijuana in the state, which has been the organization's prime concern. It was opposed by *High Times*, the Marijuana Policy Project, the Drug Policy Alliance and a significant portion of the legalization movement in the state.

A Quinnipiac University poll in August found that a whopping 84 percent of registered Ohio voters backed legalizing medical marijuana, while 52 percent approved legalizing small amounts for recreational use. Given that Issue 3 received slightly under 36 percent of the

vote, it's clear that many supporters of legalization either voted against the measure or didn't turn out to vote at all.

Most of the criticism of Issue 3 prior to the election involved the granting of exclusive cultivation rights to its financial backers, which was justified by organizers as necessary to raise the funds to pay for the ballot initiative in the first place. Many critics in favor of legalization opposed the measure because of its blatant greed. Opposition to Issue 3 should thus be viewed as one of the marijuana movement's most important decisions: a true demonstration of integrity.

Commentators within the movement and in the press agree on the reasons for the initiative's failure. The first and most obvious is ResponsibleOhio's proposed oligopoly over legal marijuana in the state, as well as its patronizing attitude toward the cannabis-law reform

« movement: It assumed unconditional support for a legalization measure regardless of its provisions. Second, ResponsibleOhio created a mascot named “Buddie,” a cartoonish, life-size superhero plushy, to publicize the initiative to young adults and college students—inspiring comparisons to Joe Camel, a character representing the worst practices of the tobacco industry, and helping to inflame older voters’ concerns. Third, the group decided to put the measure on the ballot in an off-year election, on the grounds that voters would not be distracted by other political debates.

The latter decision was devastating to the initiative’s chances for success. Issue 3 received a total of 3,126,027 votes; compare that with the 5,633,246 votes cast in the 2012 presidential election in Ohio. In other words, a presidential election attracts about 70 percent of registered voters, while this off-year election attracted about 40 percent. Also, people who vote in off-year elections tend to be older and more conservative—but for a legalization initiative to win, it needs a strong turnout by younger and more liberal or libertarian voters.

As a result of this failed strategy, Issue 3 lost in every single county in the state. Consider Cuyahoga County, where

Fortunately, the marijuana community’s successful opposition to Issue 3 demonstrates that the legalization movement is based on conviction and integrity—and that it’s strongly opposed to creating monopolies and cartels.

Cleveland is located. In 2012, Barack Obama received 447,273 votes, compared with 190,660 for Mitt Romney. In 2015, Issue 3 received 188,434 “No” votes versus 123,493 “Yes” votes in Cuyahoga County.

It should also be noted that Issue 3 was based on the concept of artificial scarcity, a policy approach to legal cannabis pushed by many academics. It envisions a severely limited number of legal suppliers who would be able to inflate the retail price of marijuana to artificially high levels, which in turn would “serve” the public interest by discouraging use. The concept of artificial scarcity also proposes that having a limited number of suppliers would make them more compliant to regulation in exchange for their profitable market shares. Ironically, the supporters of this approach argue that it’s the best way to *avoid* producing a “Big Marijuana” corporate behemoth similar to the limited cartel that controls the tobacco industry. They don’t

seem to realize that this approach would actually *create* such a behemoth for marijuana production and sales, and that the political and financial power of this cartel would present the greatest challenge to meaningful regulation.

Fortunately, the marijuana community’s successful opposition to Issue 3 demonstrates that the legalization movement is based on conviction and integrity—and that it’s strongly opposed to creating monopolies and cartels. If Issue 3 had won, it would have provided a model for crony-capitalist efforts at legalization in other states; encouraged political support for the concept of artificial scarcity; and harmed the efforts to produce free, open markets that allow greater access and participation in the newly emerging marijuana industry as well as lower prices for consumers. In other words, the defeat of ResponsibleOhio’s Issue 3 was a victory for freedom, opportunity and the public interest. ✱

HIGH FIVE

Bud Biz Boom

The cannabis industry is generating plenty of new economic opportunities. *By Mark Miller*



Packaging

With legal ganja heavily regulated by state governments to avoid accidents like unintended consumption by kids, proper packaging and labeling are imperative. Kush Bottles, for example, manufactures child-resistant plastic pot containers, and Stink Sack makes odor-free opaque bags with child-proof slide locks.



Real Estate

CBRE, the world’s largest commercial real-estate-services firm, reports that legal cannabis “kick-started the recovery of the industrial market in Denver,” resulting in record-high rents and record-low vacancies. From 2009 to 2014, a third of all industrial space leased in Denver was for cultivation purposes.



Industrial Agriculture

Companies are producing cutting-edge agricultural technology, as in Washington. Innovative firms like Ambient Water have developed a process to capture moisture in the air and convert it into water for plants, while companies like Black Dog LED create products that generate the best light-spectrum emission at a lower cost.



Advertising & Consulting

According to a survey by the Marijuana Business Factbook, weed-related marketing, advertising and consulting companies are among the most heavily funded by investors. Misinformation and propaganda still need to be addressed. Marijuana advertising bolsters ad revenue for local weeklies and newspapers.



Security & Transportation

Because banks won’t service cannabusinesses (as well as the possibility of robbery), high-level security and transportation of products and cash is a top priority. In Denver, Security Grade Protective Services employs veterans, who utilize their skills in the protection of cannabis.

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America Is Going to Pot

In 2015, a record-tying percentage of Americans were in favor of legalizing marijuana—and more US residents are using pot than ever before.

A recent study published in the journal *JAMA Psychiatry* found that cannabis consumption among US adults doubled from 2001 to 2013, with nearly 10 percent taking nationwide—more than 22 million users. The study analyzed the health surveys of nearly 80,000 adults conducted from 2001 to '02 and from 2012 to '13. Marijuana use increased among all age groups, but was most prevalent among the millennials, ages 18 to 29.

Americans now support legalizing cannabis in record numbers, with the most recent Gallup poll finding a remarkable 58 percent in favor of legalization. That ties the record set in 2013, before support dipped to 51 percent in 2014. The survey also revealed that only 40 percent of Americans feel that pot should remain criminalized, the second-lowest figure ever (the same group was at 39 percent in 2013).

Decrim in Ireland

Ireland will decriminalize small amounts of marijuana, heroin and cocaine for personal use as part of what Aodhán Ó Ríordáin, the country's minister of national drugs strategy, described as a "radical cultural shift."

The goal of the decriminalization effort isn't to bring the spring-break crowd to Ireland. Instead, Ó Ríordáin seeks to change attitudes about drugs and addiction by focusing on treatment rather than punishment and by removing users from the criminal-justice system. He also announced that drug users will be able to use medically supervised injecting rooms in cities like Dublin starting next year.

Even so, the manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs will remain illegal in Ireland, and the quantities of illicit substances permitted for personal use under this progressive new policy have yet to be specified.



**WILL
SMUGGLE DRUGS
FOR CHEESE**



In Brazil, even rodents get roped into the drug trade. Officials at the Barra da Grota prison in the northern city of Araguaína busted a mouse used to transport small packets of weed and coke from cell to cell, with the help of a hook attached to its tail.

One clever prisoner trained the mouse to tote the packets to the cell doors of his fellow inmates, who'd then snatch them up—until, that is, a guard noticed the tiny courier scurrying down a corridor trailing a baggie of buds.

The subsequent investigation turned up 29 packets of cannabis and 23 packets of cocaine. Prison officials are now reviewing security-camera footage to determine which ingenious inmate was behind the smuggling scheme. The mouse was eventually released outside the prison.

**Inside the
Wide World
of Weed**



Colbert takes a stand against the war on pot.

Stephen Colbert: Master Debater

Pot found a powerful proponent in the brilliant Stephen Colbert, who took Republican presidential hopeful John Kasich to task for his prohibitionist views during a recent episode of *The Late Show*. After bringing up Kasich's opposition to legalizing marijuana, Colbert asked, almost incredulously, "Why do you think we still need to keep pot illegal?"

Kasich responded with a standard prohibitionist talking point: "We have a huge drug crisis in this country." But Colbert pushed back, asking, "Is that really [because of] pot?"

Kasich explained that he's just thinking of the children: "We don't want to tell our kids, 'Don't do drugs—but by the way, this drug's okay.'" To which Colbert deftly countered: "Isn't that what alcohol is?"

Perhaps the most telling moment came when Kasich admitted to smoking pot himself in the past. Colbert asked him whether he'd still be governor of Ohio if he'd been caught, and though Kasich laughed it off, the message was clear: Pot prohibition ruins lives. Hat tip to Colbert for not backing down.



Pols on Pot: Bernie vs. Hillary

Presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders took the lead on pot-law reform by introducing his Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2015 in the US Senate. The legislation would remove cannabis from the Controlled Substances

Act and the DEA's list of most dangerous drugs. Although the law wouldn't legalize pot nationwide, it would allow states to do so without fear of federal reprisal. Sanders's legislation would also allow banks to legally conduct financial transactions with cannabusinesses. On his website, the Vermont senator acknowledged Colorado Representative Jared Polis's Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act as the inspiration for his bill.

While Sanders is attacking prohibition at its roots, fellow Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton has so far proposed weak half-measures, such as reclassifying pot from Schedule I to Schedule II. While that would allow cannabis to be used as medicine and in scientific research, the proposal falls woefully short of the genuine reform offered by Bernie's bill.



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Colombia Legalizes Medical Cannabis

Colombia, the South American nation long associated with cocaine trafficking and high-quality outdoor weed, has announced plans to legalize cannabis for medical and scientific purposes.

President Juan Manuel Santos confirmed that he would sign an executive decree authorizing a regulated medical marijuana program in the country—everything from cultivation, licensing, and sales to the eventual export of medi-pot products to other nations where their use is legal, such as Canada. The scientific-research provision is a key component of the decree, since it will expand the understanding and utilization of cannabinoids in treating disease; meanwhile, allowing medicinal use will benefit, among others, the estimated 400,000 Colombians suffering from epilepsy.

Under current law, Colombians are allowed to possess small amounts of *any* narcotic for personal use, but those court rulings have never been officially sanctioned by the federal government.

Illinois Begins Sales of MMJ after Two Year Wait

Illinois has implemented its long-delayed medical pot program in earnest, with the first legal sales taking place on November 9, 2015—more than two years after lawmakers approved the plant for medicinal use. Despite the lengthy wait, patients in Illinois are thrilled to finally have legal access to cannabis medicine. Nineteen-year-old Chris Favela, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, was one of the first to purchase state-sanctioned marijuana in Illinois. Although the prices are high—nine grams run \$180 at the EarthMed dispensary in Addison—Favela is happy for the relief. “[Cannabis] soothes the muscle stiffness and makes you feel a lot better,” he explained.

Only six of the 60 dispensaries planned for the state were open for the first day of legal sales, and there are no pot shops operating in Chicago, where the first dispensaries are expected to open in early 2016. To date, Illinois has registered just 3,300 patients statewide.

MARIJUANA FOR METABOLISM



A new study published in the *American Journal of Medicine* suggests that current consumers of cannabis are 54 percent less likely to suffer metabolic syndrome—a cluster of conditions that increase the risk of deadly heart disease, stroke and diabetes—compared to those who have never used pot.

Researchers at the University of Miami School of Medicine, analyzing the responses of people ages 20 to 59 in the 2005 to 2010 National Health and Nutritional Examination Surveys, discovered that less than 14 percent of current pot smokers met the criteria for metabolic syndrome, while nearly 20 percent of those who never used weed were candidates for it. Pot smokers also had lower fasting glucose levels and smaller waist circumferences compared to non-tokers. So light up and live longer!

Crocodile tears ain't fooling this guy.



Croc Block

Indonesia is really serious about drugs—or at least about scaring the crap out of drug users. The country's latest extreme measure against offenders? Using friggin' crocodiles to guard an island prison holding people sentenced to death on drug convictions.

The man behind the death-row croc-prison-guard scheme is none other than National Narcotics Agency chief Budi Waseso, who seems to take a sadistic joy in the idea, telling reporters: “We will place as many crocodiles as we can there. I will search for the most ferocious type of crocodile.”

Waseso's rationale for using crocodiles is that, unlike corruptible human guards, the deadly reptiles can't be bribed. Oh, and just in case anyone thought he was joking, Waseso later confirmed that not only does he intend to fill the prison's moat with up to 1,000 crocodiles, but he's also considering placing tigers outside the grounds and stocking the waters surrounding the island with flesh-eating piranhas.

Just say no... to going to Indonesia.

Pot Pays for Higher Education

The cultural and societal benefits of legal cannabis are profound. And now, thanks to voters in Pueblo, Colorado, legal pot is contributing to higher education.

The residents of Pueblo approved a historically unprecedented ballot measure that would provide a college scholarship to all high-school graduates from the city or county of Pueblo beginning in 2017. The initiative passed resoundingly, with 60 percent of the vote, and proposes a 5 percent excise tax on commercial cannabis cultivation in Pueblo County. At least 50 percent of that revenue would then be placed in a cash fund for scholarships, which would allow new high-school graduates to attend any public college or university in the county.

The remaining excise money is earmarked for a number of exciting projects, including an innovative Medical Marijuana Academic Research grant. Depending on the revenue raised, the program could be expanded after 2017.

Colorado creates America's first pot scholarship.





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HIGHWIRE

Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*

Mexican Protesters Mobilize on Massacre Anniversary

On September 26—the first anniversary of the disappearance of 43 students in Mexico's southern state of Guerrero—thousands of protesters filled the streets of Mexico City. The march, led by parents of the missing students, made its way from Los Pinos, the presidential residence, to the Zócalo, the capital's massive central square. Protests were also held in Iguala, Guerrero, where the 43 students from a teachers' college in nearby Ayotzinapa were abducted. Demonstrators carried placards that read "*Ni un desaparecido más, ni un muerto más—¡Fuera Peña Nieto!!*" ("Not one more disappearance, not one more death—Out with Peña Nieto!!"), reflecting the growing pressure that the case has put on President Enrique Peña Nieto. To date, 110 members of the Guerreros Unidos narco gang—named by the government as responsible for the mass abduction—have been arrested, although none have been convicted. The government claims that the students were massacred by the gang and that two sets of remains have been identified. But survivors, activists and human-rights observers say the official story doesn't hold water.

Erika Guevara-Rosas, the Americas director at Amnesty International, wrote on the occasion of the anniversary that the students' kidnapping and likely murder are "Peña Nieto's ultimate

British grandmother Lindsay Sandiford is a death-row inmate in Indonesia



Torture on Indonesia's Death Row

Amnesty International on October 15 released a report charging that death-row inmates in Indonesia are routinely beaten and coerced into confessions and then denied the right to counsel. The report noted that President Joko Widodo's government had executed 14 prisoners since he took office a year earlier—all of them for drug charges. According to the report, titled "Flawed Justice," in half of the 12 cases that Amnesty analyzed, prisoners insisted that their "confessions" were extracted by torture. One Pakistani man, Zulfiqar Ali, was held incommunicado at a private house for three days as the police brutalized him. He was beaten so badly that he required kidney and stomach surgery—but his confession was still used in court, and no independent investigation into the heroin charge against him was carried out. Amnesty urged Indonesia to impose a moratorium on the death penalty and to create an independent body to review the death-row cases.

The Widodo administration, however, remains intransigent. In April, Indonesia executed eight drug convicts by firing squad, including two Australians who were part of the famous "Bali Nine."

test... The tragedy has revealed a human rights crisis of epic proportions, with nearly 30,000 men, women and children disappeared or missing in the last few years alone."

Peña Nieto took the occasion to announce the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the Iguala disappearances, several days after meeting with the missing students' families. "We are on the same side, we want the same thing: to know what happened to each of their children," Peña Nieto tweeted. But the grim anniversary also came days after the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances issued a statement urging countries to increase their efforts to account for

disappeared persons—and singled out Mexico for special mention.

For all his recent activity in the case, Peña Nieto seems determined to place the blame on the local narco gang—thereby treating the Iguala disappearances as an isolated case rather than one particularly ghastly manifestation of a systemic human-rights crisis in Mexico.

Cover-Up Claimed in El Chapo Escape

The Mexican interior ministry, known as Gobernación, was accused by a Mexican Senate committee on September 15 of suppressing evidence pointing to official complicity in the July escape of Sinaloa Cartel kingpin Joaquín

Guzmán Loera, a.k.a. "El Chapo," who for over a decade was the country's most-wanted man. Senator Alejandro Encinas, who heads the Senate National Security Committee, asserted that Gobernación had denied him access to security-video footage taken in Guzmán's cell, which is said to contain "drilling sounds" in the background—indicating that prison authorities ignored construction work on the tunnel through which El Chapo escaped. "The video exists, and it is crucial in order to identify the extent of complicity in El Chapo's escape," Encinas told the EFE news agency. "Just the fact that the sound of a drill can be heard [on the

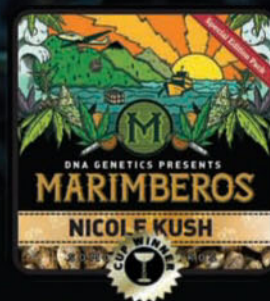
recording] implies complicity on several levels."

Encinas said that Gobernación concealed the existence of the video from him on two occasions—first when a delegation visited Altiplano prison three days after El Chapo's escape, and then in a high-level meeting with government officials, including Gobernación chief Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong. Portions of the video, which was shot just before the escape, were shown at a press conference two days after El Chapo flew the coop, but authorities said that the tape contained nothing unusual. Then, in early August, the news magazine *Proceso* revealed the existence of unseen footage, citing an internal report by the office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic. *Proceso* wrote that "the banging of metal against concrete can be heard in Guzmán Loera's cell during several minutes before he disappears from the security camera shot." Encinas has demanded that his committee be allowed access to the full recording, which was made by the Center for Investigation and National Security (CISEN), Mexico's answer to the CIA. He also points to CISEN, the National Penitentiary System and the National Security Commission as answerable in the cover-up, charging: "They were evidently complicit in permitting this escape." 🌱

For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg's websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.

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Sustainable Hemp, Skater Style

In Zen Buddhism, *satori* is the word for “awakening.” In the 1990s, a group of lifelong friends and skateboarders decided to create a skate company informed by a similarly enlightened ethos—a “positive, spiritual, organic-lifestyle aspect,” says Craig Nejedly, one of the original founders—and so Satori Movement was born.

These days, Satori Movement uses hemp in nearly all of its products—along with organic cotton, bamboo rayon and recycled PET—but the company’s concept of *satori* goes beyond sustainable materials. From the recycled boxes for shipping to the double-sided recycling paper for office use, Satori Movement has designed its business to minimize both costs and carbon footprint. “Kind of an overall strategy,” Craig says, “which is also good for the bottom line, because you’re producing efficiencies. So, kind of a strategy to be better on the Earth and better on the budget.”

With its plans for global expansion, the

broadening of its product line and a family of equally conscious subsidiaries, Satori represents the growing number of companies that could have a direct and positive impact on the US economy with the legalization of hemp. “It’s funny how cannabis became legal before hemp,” Craig muses. “It’s cool—but we’re hoping hemp can follow right behind, and then we’ll be able to get hemp products made in the USA. That’s our business goal. Right now, we’re forced to deal with China, because they’re really the only place producing quality hemp fabric.”

Not surprisingly, Satori Movement’s founders are down with the psychoactive version of the plant as well. “In the skateboard industry,” Craig notes, “we’re known as the ‘stoner brand.’ That used to be a faux pas, but now everyone’s putting the leaf on things and jumping on the green wagon—which is great! People using good products and using cannabis... one of the best plants on planet Earth.” *Mary Ought Six*

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The CBD treats interact naturally with a dog’s immune and nervous systems. Dogs experiencing their effects may behave more confidently, feel more relaxed and be healthier overall. As yourcbdsources.com notes, “Cannabidiol (CBD) has been linked with prolonged lifespan, reduced anxiety and an overall improvement in the life of your pet.” Visit yourcbdsources.com.





Weed warriors Williams and Pope in the midst of heavy callisthenics

WavvVvves

The San Diego-based band fearlessly traffics in beauty and guilt, while ringed in an exquisite wilderness of noise. *By Josh Chambers*

At the climax of a blistering performance at New York City's Irving Plaza, Nathan Williams of Wavves has scaled the ramparts of the theater and is perched precariously on the railing of the second-floor balcony. His guitar quivers, discarded on the stage, squealing like a chained dog pining for its master. Williams pauses for a moment, towering high above the ocean of outstretched palms, and then, in a moment of terrifying grace, executes a perfect front flip into the void. For a split second, the collective breath of the crowd is drawn and bound. He drops into the breathless air and lands perfectly—floating on the gentle swell of 1,000

supporting hands.

This, of course, is a living, kinetic, real-time metaphor for the relationship between Williams and those who love his music—those who entered Wavves by parting the fogged thickets and passing through the fields of distortion and honeysuckle that marked their first two albums; who stayed with them through multiple band changes, Rx contraindications, famous pets and notable romances; and who would eventually behold the glory, depth and confidence of albums like *King of the Beach*, *Life Sux*, *Afraid of Heights* and now, the majestic *V*.

Six days prior to their Irving Plaza show, Williams

and bandmate Stephen Pope meet up with *High Times* amidst the keyholes, jigs, joints and alloys that attend a private HT clubhouse/blacksmith forge. The two arrive 20 minutes early, seemingly due to the tenacity of their road manager, Dayn Reardon. The lovely and subversive blacksmith/artist Rebekah Harris—who, incidentally, creates the Cannabis Cup trophies—is hosting this heady summit, clad in a leather apron

and ably casting jewelry in the background while casually throwing out references to Aleister Crowley, Throbbing Gristle and Jack “Whiteside” Parsons’s infamous sex-magick orgies.

It’s the perfect environment in which to meet Wavves: intimately creative, genuinely magnetic and potentially sorcerous. Williams and Pope are totally spent from the previous night’s gig, but they manage to exude kindness, generosity and respect nonetheless in their abundant handshakes, “please” and “thank you”-type manners, and, finally, in sitting close together on the studio’s tiny couch, in a miniature duet of intimate



The Pope of Goats

Stephen Pope on how Wavves’ burgeoning fame might change his life: “Not having to drink domestic beer would be very nice. I don’t see anything wrong with that. Maybe get a few goats. Get some cheese. They can just squirt the cheese right up here.”

Brothers Grimm seeds



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humor—all of which suggests that the innocence that characterizes their five heavenly, noisy records comes from a place of sincerity and a sense of fervent brotherhood.

“You can’t really do this at this point unless you’re friends,” Williams observes. “A lot of our friends that are in other bands all hate other—which just seems horrible.”

Williams and Pope seem particularly close, doing interviews in tandem, and that bond reveals itself in their live shows, with Pope transubstantiating from his sweet, quiet, warm persona to a raging, ravaging, bullish bass virtuoso. Onstage, the two seem to be pushing each other to the very edges of the music—making the songs into big physical statements from the etchings and blueprints of the recordings. They achieve scale through sonic audacity and pull visual focus from the movement of their bodies. Their choreography is not conscious; it’s not schematic or formal or governed by concept or aesthetic ideology. It is wild, primal and possessive, and it owns them completely.

Back at HTHQ, the photographer is looking for prime points of vantage and, upon spotting the roof, asks: “Are you guys afraid of heights?” A question they’ve no doubt been asked many times, given that *Afraid of Heights* was their last and heretofore greatest album. They are, however, fearless—and, in short order, are ripping bong hits and toking joints of Berry White and Green Crack non-stop throughout the hour-long photo shoot and subsequent video interview, making them possibly the two highest musicians ever to be interviewed by this magazine.

Both Williams and Pope, even when somewhat obligated to get high as fuck for the duration of an entire photo shoot, seem to navigate their buzz pretty fuckin’ well. Lately, they’re light

“The truth is that I’ve done a lot of drugs, but I don’t like doing them anymore. I like to smoke weed and record music—it goes hand in hand.”

on hard drugs and alcohol, but the band behind “Weed Demon” and Weed Demon Inc. (the copyright holder of their songs) smoke the reefer “hourly.” As Williams puts it, “We like weed. The truth is that I’ve done a lot of drugs, but I don’t like doing them anymore. I like to smoke weed and record music—it goes hand in hand. I’d rather be stoned in the studio.”

Of course, it’s at those moments when you expect rampage and wreckage from a notoriously rowdy band that you get politeness, balance, humility and answers that come in full paragraphs. Which, in turn, leaves you completely unprepared for what it’s like to catch them in action from a bird’s-eye view before a capacity crowd days later, their chaotically devoted masses conjuring an energy reminiscent of the titanic early shows by Guided by Voices, Dinosaur Jr. and The Pixies.

“We’re not famous by any means,” Williams demurs. “We live pretty normal lives.”

Wavves may consider themselves a group of normal guys, but they have an extraordinary advantage over most artists who find themselves in the throes of evolution. From

the very beginning, they have identified where this music comes from, what it means at its simplest, loveliest and most emotional. They have wisely returned to that formidable core of sound and confession in recording after recording—always developing, and yet always putting the right bucket in the best well. Put on their entire discography, play it chronologically, and follow along with a lyric sheet: You’ll see just how far this music has travelled, and just how well built it is in its intention and integrity. They can take the music wherever they want. They can go farther than any of them have ever imagined. And if they want it, they have the tools, grace and opportunity to become one of the greatest bands of this era. ✨



The weed demons of Wavves

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I AM ALICIA SILVERSTONE, AND I AM A

VEGETARIAN

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Sweet Sinners

Atlanta's Biters are made of sugar and vice and everything nice.

I have to admit, I was pretty shocked when I heard that Biters signed to Earache last spring. Short on class and long on sleaze, Atlanta's favorite party-rock sons are a world away from the iconic, groundbreaking black metal bands (Entombed! Napalm Death! Bolt Thrower!) that the label broke back in the day. "Biters? My hairdresser and all her friends wouldn't shut up about how hot they are," griped a male friend when I mentioned the band. Well, they'd better be: Biters unashamedly play rock'n'roll that harks back to a time when "pro hair and attitude" were as important as fiery lixx and catchy sing-along choruses, and they faithfully deliver it all. *Electric Blood*, their first full-length, finds them tingeing the full-throttle, glammy power pop of the '70s (Sweet, Slade, Raspberries) that marked their previous EPs with the sugary hard rock of the early '80s (Kix, Hanoi Rocks). Anthemic album opener "Restless Hearts" is gold, with its instantly memorable chorus, dizzy keyboard line and cobra guitar solo, which starts low and coiled before rising to strike with Thin Lizzy fangs. "Dreams Don't Die" and "Elec-

tric Blood" are beautifully wistful rock-candy burners in which the acoustic guitar is used to great effect—not alone, but in tandem with slash-and-burn electric guitars, which has the aural effect of a rainbow in a thunderstorm. I know that sounds pretty unicorn-stickers-on-a-Trapper-Keeper; it's possible such junior-high sentiments come to mind because of the production, which is slick and L-I-T-E, with occasional cheesy keyboard choices and too-shiny guitars belying the band's live power. The record sounds big and sweet; I just wish the whole thing was a little rawer, faster, wilder... like the band. *Electric Blood* finds Biters straining at the leash; hopefully, their next album will find them snapping it. *Polly Watson*



Biters
Electric Blood
(Earache)

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Peaches
Rub
(I U She Music/
INGrooves)

➤ Peaches loves appropriating the boys' brazen sexuality and gynecological detail, but she turns it up two notches here. The electronic diva's first album in six years suggests post-modern beer-commercial porn with gender dysphoria. It pushes back further than ever on sexual roles, from

the reverse-bukkake of "Rub," to "Dick in the Air," in which Peaches lays out her agenda: "We've been shaking our tits for you / Let's switch positions." Satirical highlight "Vaginoplasty" showcases Peaches' irreverence, on an album whose absence of pop pretensions encourages an even edgier wit. *Chris Parker*



Kylesa
Exhausting Fire
(Season of Mist)

➤ Routinely referred to as a "sludge band," Savannah shape-shifters Kylesa haven't really been one for years. Sure, their first two albums were slow-cooked to a crusty, detuned rumble—but with each succeeding record, more psychedelic nuance and dreamlike textures seep into their sonic palette. So

it is with *Exhausting Fire*. From space-bass excursions and tribal-drum workouts to galloping metal blasts and throbbing Pixies-esque alt-rock, Kylesa have expanded their horizons considerably since their 2002 debut without ever abandoning their penchant for high-quality heaviness. *J. Bennett*

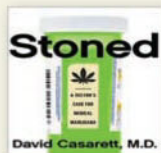


Fuzz
Fuzz II
(In the Red)

➤ With Zeppelin-reunion hopes fading and Sabbath on their final tour, LA super-trio Fuzz's sophomore album fills the retro-heavy-riff void. The psych sludge of "Pipe" will appeal to stoner sensibilities, and the tribal intro of "Say Hello" and the strings of "Silent Sits the Dust Bowl" demonstrate

the band's diversity. You wouldn't want to meet "Jack the Maggot" in a dark alley, and the Luciferian chords of "Bringer of Light" sustain the wicked vibes. Fuzz save the best for last on the closing instrumental "II"—a 13-minute thrill machine you'll bribe the carnies to keep riding. *Mark Miller*

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Stoned: A Doctor's Case for Medical Marijuana
David Casarett, MD
(Current)

➤ Investigations into basal ganglia, shrinking brains and the vanishing penis are only a few of the curious signposts along the journey of *Stoned*, physician David Casarett's dive into a seemingly simple question: "Does medical marijuana work?" His exploration is detailed via a number of anecdotes,

including self-medication, and backed up by the latest and most comprehensive marijuana research. Casarett's skepticism as a scientist melts away as he learns more about cannabis at the molecular—and human—level. The doctor rests his case with the World's Best Brownie Recipe. *Mike DiPaola*

GAMES RECOMMENDATIONS



Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain
PS4/Xbox One/PC
(Konami)

➤ Simultaneously modernistic and classic, *The Phantom Pain* is the weaving of fiction drenched in 1980s action-flick nostalgia with the historical narratives of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the Angolan Civil War. Tactical espionage is still the game, and never before has the

creativity for disarming adversaries been fostered so well. Stealth not your thing? Been spending too much time getting high, hiding in a cardboard box? Get some help from your knife-wielding dog—or maybe a little sniper support from a bikini-clad walking bioweapon. *Tyler Merfeld*

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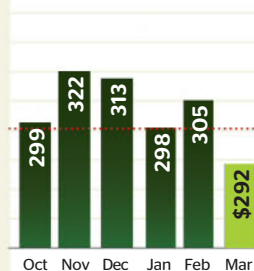
MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

All indices, with the exception of the Kind Index, finished March below their previous month's average. The Mids Index, which finished up \$14 in February, plummeted \$20 in March to reach a 17-month low of \$253 per ounce—the second lowest Mids Index average since May 2010 (70 months).

US Price Index

YTD Average: \$298



Kind Index

YTD Average: \$373



Mids Index

YTD Average: \$262



Schwag Index

YTD Average: \$111



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—Missoula, MT

TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
Alabama	Birmingham	Silver Haze	\$350
Arizona	Tucson	Blue Dream	300
Arkansas	El Dorado	MK-Ultra	330
California	Chula Vista	Monster Cookies Wax	20/gram
Colorado	Denver	Mango	150
Connecticut	Stratford	Ghost Train Haze	425
Delaware	Newark	Girl Scout Cookies	350
Florida	Jupiter	Blue Cheese	240
Georgia	Atlanta	Granddaddy Purps	380
Illinois	Chicago	Blackberry Kush	330
Indiana	Indianapolis	Blue Dream	200
Iowa	Des Moines	Gorilla Glue #4	290
Louisiana	New Orleans	Berry White	275
Maine	Bangor Portland	Great White Shark Girl Scout Cookies	300 260
Maryland	Baltimore	East Coast Sour Diesel	400
Massachusetts	Boston	Chemdog Shatter	40/gram
Michigan	Ann Arbor Traverse City	Gorilla Glue Dutch Treat	300 275
Minnesota	Minneapolis	Master Kush	320
Missouri	Springfield	OG Kush	350
Montana	Missoula	BC God Bud	200
New Jersey	Atlantic City	Jack Herer	400
New York	New York	Three Kings	400
North Carolina	Asheville Raleigh	Tahoe OG Blue Dream	320 360
Ohio	Cleveland	Trainwreck	300
Oregon	Portland	Jack Herer	200
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Grape Ape	210
Tennessee	Nashville	Alaskan Thunderfuck	240
Texas	Austin	Critical+	375
Utah	Provo	Time Wreck	200
Vermont	Burlington	Blue Dream	320
Virginia	Richmond	Headband	400
Washington	Seattle	Girl Scout Cookie	280
INTERNATIONAL			
Canada	Calgary Quebec City	Jack Herer Mango Kush Blueberry	C\$210 190 190
United Kingdom	London	Chemdog	£250

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(Berry White) "Sweet
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exciting at the same
time. Euphoric."
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4 Bee Smart

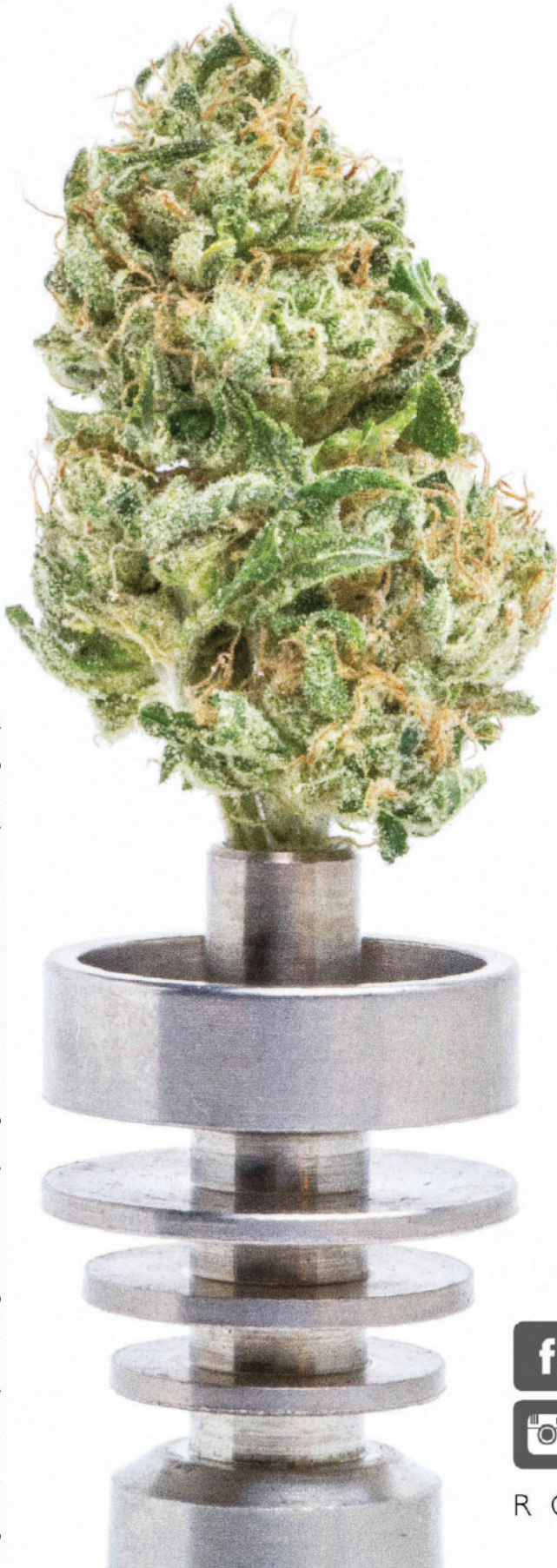
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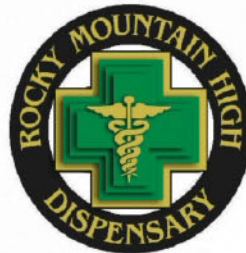
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Advanced Nutrients has recently launched **Grow Med University (GMU)**, a free, self-directed online hydroponics course that reveals the latest techniques, tips, tricks, and technology used by the most competitive marijuana growers in the world.

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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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Raising the Bar Weights...and Reputations...of Top Growers



The Best-Tasting Buds on Earth

Your favorite terps uncovered. *By Nico Escondido*

Terps 101

Understanding what's behind the amazing flavor of your favorite buds is no easy task. But as the medical and legal cannabis markets expand and this booming industry builds legitimacy, the latest scientific research is making it crystal clear: There's far more to marijuana than just the well-known cannabinoids like THC and CBD.

Indeed, the word “terps” (short for “terpenes” or “terpenoids”) is thrown around quite a bit these days, employed as a catchall term to describe the scents and tastes associated with various cannabis strains. But what are terps, and how do they affect the aroma and flavor of our best-loved strains?

Technically, terpenes are a large class of organic hydrocarbons produced by a wide variety of plants, not just cannabis; they're referred to as “terpenoids” if they become denatured by oxidation (such as during the drying and curing process). In simpler terms, terps are the essential oils or primary building blocks of any plant resin, and they contribute a great deal to the scent, flavor, and colors of the plant. Some recent research even suggests that terpenoids may contribute to the psychoactive effects of cannabis as well, either singularly or via the “entourage effect”—the total compounded influence of all the cannabinoids and terpenoids contained in dried cannabis flowers.

The List

The following list of the “Best-Tasting Buds on Earth”—our first ever—has been compiled using the latest in lab-testing technology as well as our state-of-the-art cannabis scoring and ranking system, known as the High Times Scorebook, which we use at all of our Cannabis Cups to pick the winning entries.

HT's partner labs test strains not only for cannabinoids, but for a full range of terpenes as well. Then we combine these quantitative results with the qualitative data obtained from hundreds of expert judges at our Cannabis Cups over the past two years to determine which strains possess the best flavor and aroma, making the cannabis connoisseur's palate water even before the first bowl is sparked...

#1 Durban Poison

Total terp count: 4.1%

Primary terps: terpinolene (23.8 mg/g); myrcene (15.6 mg/g)

Judges' scorecard: 4.2 (out of 5) for taste; 4.6 for aroma


Competition: Seattle US Cannabis Cup, 2014

Awards: 3rd Place, *Sativa* Flowers (US Recreational)

Grower: TJ's Organic Gardens

Lab-tested by: Steep Hill Labs, Seattle, WA

DESCRIPTION: Surprise! Landrace Durban Poison, like the one we encountered at our Seattle Cup in 2014, is a pure *sativa* and has been known to hit upwards of 24% THC. What hasn't been known until recently is that her true phenotype exhibits an extremely rare terpene profile that not only includes a heavy dose of myrcene, but also the less common terpinolene. At 23.8 mg/g, this is among the highest concentrations of terpinolene found in any strain on the planet, giving the Durban Poison a refreshing piney aroma with a very sweet floral flavor. At just over 4% total terps—a serving size usually reserved for concentrates, not flowers—the Durban perches atop The List with a heavy lead.



Durban Poison, known for potency and a cerebral *sativa* high, also comes up big on terps.

Nameless OG, like many OG Kush phenos, is high in limonene and myrcene.



#2 Nameless OG

Total terp count: 3.01%

Primary terps: limonene (9.2 mg/g); myrcene (8.1 mg/g); humulene (2.1mg/g)

Judges' scorecard: 3.88 (out of 5) for taste; 3.83 for aroma

Competition: Michigan Medical Cannabis Cup, 2015

Awards: 4th Place, *Indica* Flowers (Medical)

Grower: Nameless Genetics

Lab-tested by: Iron Labs (Walled Lake, MI) and PSI Labs (Ann Arbor)

DESCRIPTION: An appropriate name for an OG Kush phenotype that represents the seemingly endless parade of OG phenos that grace our pages and our competitions year after year. This OG didn't knock the socks off our judges, but she did tip the scales at just over 3% on her terp count, which is on par with some concentrates. Her diverse terp profile, which includes humulene and pinene as well as high levels of limonene and myrcene, solidifies her place near the top of The List.

THE MIGHTY TERPENE PLAYERS

Unlike the major cannabinoids, terpenes don't require a hefty level in cannabis to make their presence known. Additionally, terps are common to all subspecies of cannabis, meaning that they don't play favorites between *sativas* and *indicas*.

Here's a brief overview of the terpenes that play a major role in the scent and flavor of our favorite strains:

LIMONENE Perhaps the most desirable terp present in cannabis, limonene is also found in a wide range of tropical fruits, particularly those of the citrus genus. Limonene is most common in lemons, oranges and limes, as well as in cannabis resin. This terpene explodes in the air when a fruit is peeled or buds are ground. Ironically, plants use limonene to repulse predators.

Limonene is the first-, second- or third-most-prevalent terpene in cannabis strains, and it's a precursor for the synthesis of other cannabinoids. Limonene is easily absorbed by inhalation and quickly appears in the bloodstream. Since it's known to affect the permeability of cell membranes, it allows more THC to reach the brain and increases the absorption of other terps.

PINENE This terpene causes the familiar aroma associated with pine trees and their resins, as well as many other conifers and a few non-coniferous plants such as big sagebrush. Pinene is also found in many essential oils produced by plants, including rosemary, sage and eucalyptus. It constitutes the major component of turpentine, contributing to its odor and properties as a solvent.

Pinene easily crosses the blood-brain barrier and promotes alertness and memory retention, among other effects. It is also a bronchodilator, allowing the deeper inhalation of smoke or vapor and the greater absorption of cannabinoids and terpenoids.

MYRCENE One of the most prevalent terps in cannabis, myrcene not only provides hints of flavor and aroma, but it's also a big contributor to the effects that a strain produces. Myrcene forms an important component of the essential oils of several plants besides cannabis, including lemongrass, bay, wild thyme, parsley, mango and hops.

Myrcene is used in the perfume industry as an intermediate agent in the preparation of flavor and fragrance chemicals such as menthol, citronellal, nerol and linalool. In cannabis, myrcene has an aroma that has been variously described as hoppy, clove-like and earthy, with tropical, mango and minty nuances.

LINALOOL This terpene has a floral scent reminiscent of spring flowers such as lily, but with spicy overtones; it is also prominent in lavender plants. Humans can detect its aroma at rates as low as one part per million in the air. In cannabis, trace amounts of linalool go a long way—combined with trace amounts of terpinolene and limonene, its effects become amplified and sweeter, much like candy.

TERPINOLENE This terp has a medium-strength, herbal aroma that's been described by judges as fresh, woody and piney, with a hint of citrus. Terpinolene's flavor is sweet and lemon-lime-like, with a slight floral nuance. It is used as a flavor and fragrance agent, as well as in soaps, detergents, creams, lotions and perfumes.



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#3 Veganic Cherry Cough

Total terp count: 2.89%

Primary terps: myrcene (23 mg/g); limonene (2 mg/g); linalool (1.5 mg/g)

Judges' scorecard: 3.8 (out of 5) for taste; 4.3 for aroma

Competition: San Francisco Medical Cannabis Cup, 2014

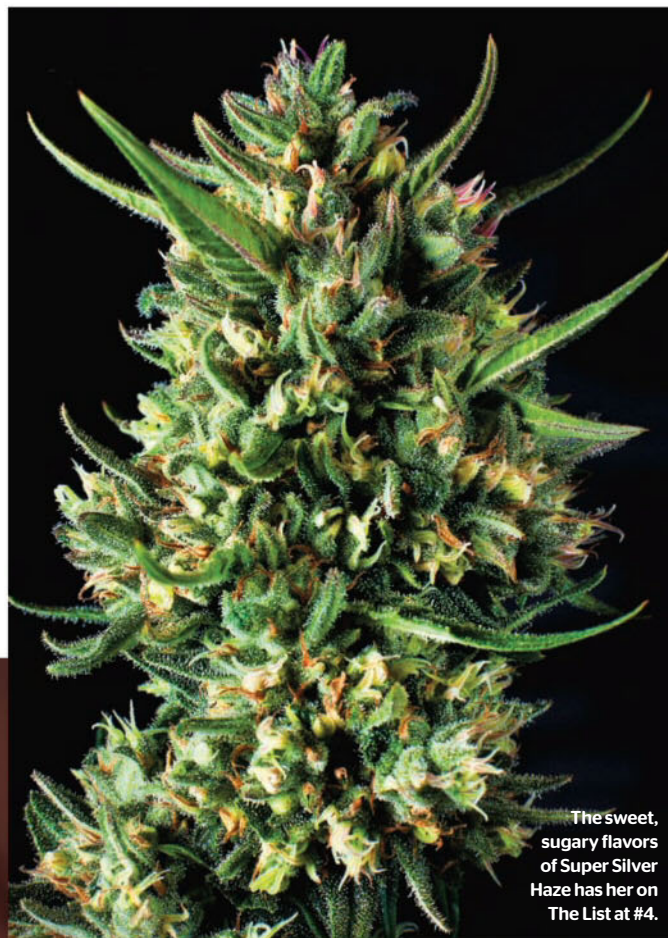
Grower: Kushman Genetics

Lab-tested by: Steep Hill Labs, Berkeley, CA

DESCRIPTION: By now, it's no secret that buds grown organically tend to do much better when it comes to flavor and aroma. Perhaps that's because they're easier to flush without all the salts that synthetic nutrients carry—or perhaps it's because organic nutes are simply better at giving plants what they need to build great terp profiles and maximize their genetic potential. Either way, when buds are grown veganically—as was the case with this Kushman Genetics original, grown using Kushman's own Vega-matrix nutrient line—the results are extraordinary (see the chart on page 54 for more info). With hints of linalool and pinene mixed with limonene, we're talking Tropical Starburst flavor all the way. And in case you're wondering, her lineage looks like this: (Strawberry Cough x Cherry Lopez) x Strawberry Cough.



Veganic Cherry Cough, an HT staff favorite, has a most unique flavor and high.



The sweet, sugary flavors of Super Silver Haze has her on The List at #4.

Perhaps organic and veganic nutrients are simply better at giving plants what they need to build great terp profiles and maximize their genetic potential.

#4 Super Silver Haze

Total terp count: 2.78%

Primary terps: myrcene (14.12 mg/g); terpinolene (11.48 mg/g)

Judges' scorecard: 4 (out of 5) for taste; 3.8 for aroma

Competition: Seattle US Cannabis Cup, 2014

Awards: 1st Place, Sativa Flowers (US Recreational)

Grower: Life Is Good Healing

Lab-tested by: Steep Hill Labs, Seattle, WA

DESCRIPTION: One of Amsterdam's original classics, the Super Silver Haze has become a building block for many of today's staple Haze strains. A *sativa*-dominant hybrid created by mixing pure Haze with Skunk #1 and Northern Lights #5, the SSH has parented strains like the Amnesia Haze, Super Lemon Haze and Blue Dream.

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#5 Blue Dream

Total terp count: 2.47%

Primary terps: myrcene (14.93 mg/g); pinene (8.39 mg/g)

Judges' scorecard: 4.5 (out of 5) for taste; 4 for aroma

Competition: Denver US Cannabis Cup, 2015

Grower: Grow Bales (Brenton Swanson)

Lab-tested by: Charas Scientific Labs, Denver

DESCRIPTION: A product of two exquisitely flavored strains, Blueberry x Super Silver Haze, the Blue Dream offers strong, fruity tones and a sugary-sweet flavor. The winner of countless Cannabis Cups, she often scores perfect 5's on the judges' scorecards and will fill a room with her pungent berry aroma as soon as a bud is cracked.



Tropicanna, a super tasty 3-way cross from Cannabiotix.

#6 Tropicanna

Total terp count: 2.4%

Primary terps: myrcene (15.9mg/g);

pinene (4.2 mg/g); limonene (2.1 mg/g)

Judges' scorecard: 4.2 (out of 5) for taste;

3.85 for aroma

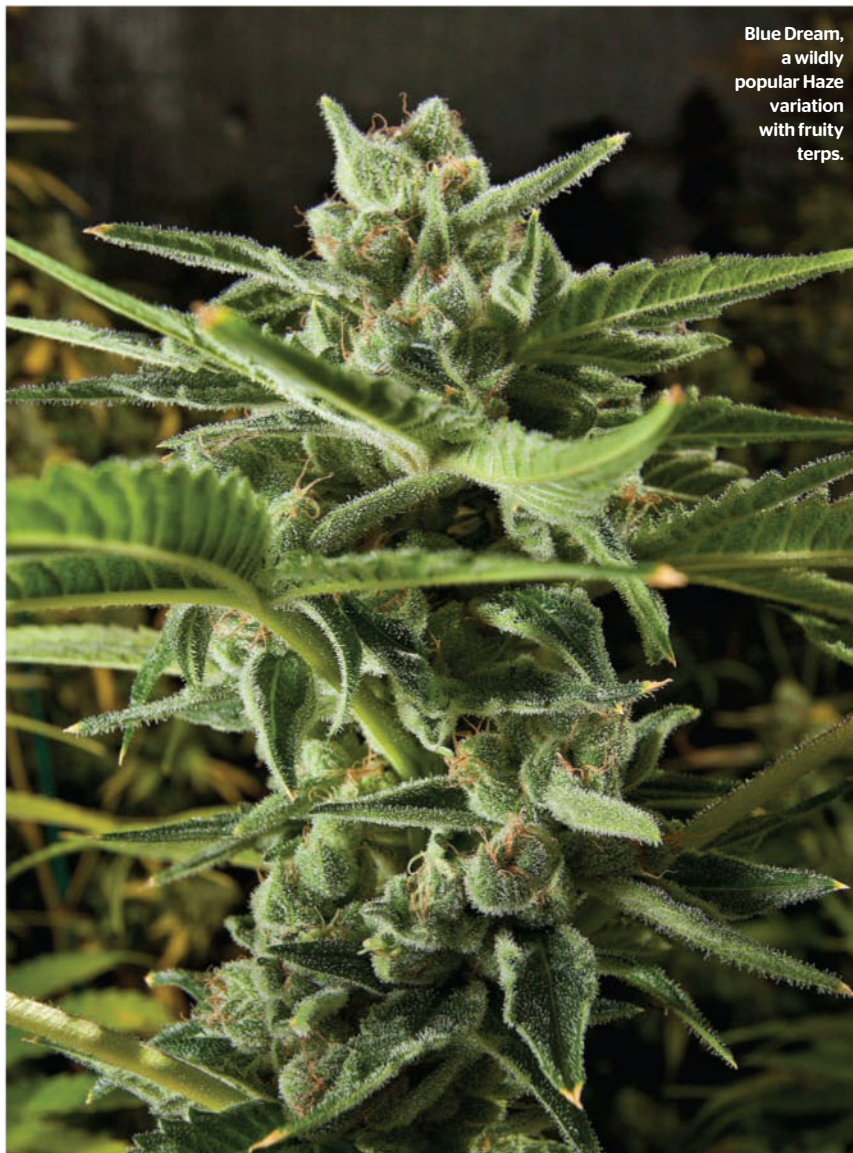
Competition: Michigan Medical Cannabis Cup, 2015

Awards: 2nd Place, *Sativa* Flowers (Medical)

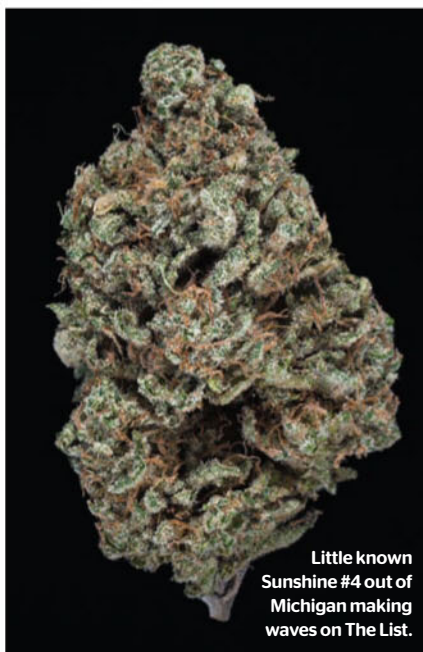
Grower: Cannabiotix

Lab-tested by: Iron Labs (Walled Lake, MI) & PSI Labs (Ann Arbor)

DESCRIPTION: Creatively named, the Tropicanna has the rich lineage one would expect from a great-tasting strain and Cup winner: Orange Crush x Pineapple x (Super Silver Haze x Pineapple) F2. The Kali Mist brings overtones of orange citrus, while the Pineapple and NL #5 provide the sweetness. With potency levels ranging from 20% to 24% THC, the Tropicanna's combo of high terpenes and powerful cannabinoids has made it a rising star in 2015.



Blue Dream, a wildly popular Haze variation with fruity terps.



Little known Sunshine #4 out of Michigan making waves on The List.

#7 Sunshine #4

Total terp count: 2.2%

Primary terps: myrcene (8.32 mg/g);

limonene (5.9 mg/g); pinene (1.6 mg/g);

trace amounts of linalool, fenchol and nerolidol

Judges' scorecard: 4 (out of 5) for taste; 3.75 for aroma

Competition: Michigan Medical Cannabis Cup, 2015

Awards: 1st Place, Hybrid Flowers (Medical)

Grower: Bodhi Seeds

Lab-tested by: Iron Labs (Walled Lake, MI) and PSI Labs (Ann Arbor)

DESCRIPTION: A cousin of the popular Girl Scout Cookies, Sunshine #4's lineage is similar but has added genetics in the form of Pink Panties (an OG x Burma cross), making her lineage look like this: OG Kush x Cherry Pie x Pink Panties. With a parentage like that, it's no wonder she has the profile of a terpene taco, with all of the major players present—and then some. Taking home a Cup in this summer's Michigan competition, Sunshine #4 rocked the scales at just over 27% THC.

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2. Nameless OG	Indoor	Advanced Nutrients Organic Blend	Coco mix	Timed auto-feed
3. Veganic Cherry Cough	Indoor	Vegamatrix	Veganic soiless	Hand-watered
4. Super Silver Haze	Indoor	Canna Nutrients	Coco	Auto top-feed
5. Blue Dream	Outdoor	Compost tea & organic supplements	Grow bales (wheat straw)	N/A
6. Tropicanna	Indoor	Organic Aptus	Coco	Hand-watered
7. Sunshine #4	Indoor	Organic nutrients	Coco	N/A
8. True OG	Indoor	Synthetic	Rockwool	Ebb-and-flow table
9. Zkittlez	Outdoor	Organic	Soil	Hand-watered
10. Strawberry Banana	Greenhouse	Organic	Organic soil	Hand-watered

Organic Growing & Terpene Profiles

From our survey of the “Best-Tasting Buds on Earth,” we’ve compiled the above chart of grow specs for each strain. This data was supplied to us directly by the competitors and growers via their Cannabis Cup entry forms for the various competitions mentioned in The List. Take a closer look at the methods, mediums and nutrients used here. Notice any pattern?

Notice that eight out of the 10 strains—or 80 percent—were grown using either organic or veganic nutrients. It stands to

reason that organic-nutrient lines produce better-tasting buds, for two main reasons.

First, synthetic fertilizers generally have a very high salt content, making it much harder to flush the residue out of the grow medium and the plants themselves. The result: buds that burn black and leave tar and char in your pipe.

Second, organic or veganic nutrients tend to have higher levels of the same compounds found in nature, giving plants more of what they need (and less of what they don’t) to help unlock their genetic poten-

tial and maximize their terpene profile. Buds grown organically or veganically burn to a white ash and tend to taste much better than those grown with synthetic nutes.

You may have also noticed that nearly every strain on The List took home an award at one of our Cannabis Cups, proving once again that the most THC-potent strains don’t necessarily win; rather, it’s the flavor and bouquet that stand out most to true connoisseurs of the plant. Food for thought—and tasty buds for those taste buds in your mouth!



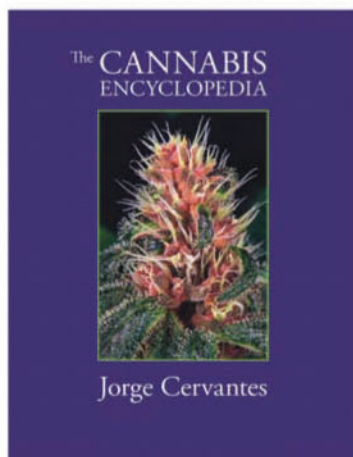
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#8 True OG

Total terp count: 2.1%

Primary terps: myrcene (8.95 mg/g); limonene (5.76 mg/g); linalool (2 mg/g)

Judges' scorecard: 4.25 (out of 5) for taste; 4.25 for aroma

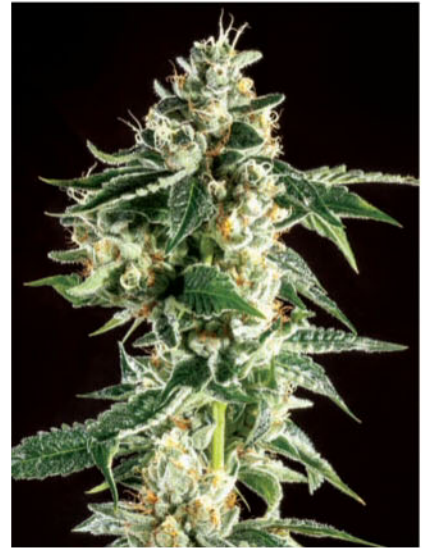
Competition: Seattle US Cannabis Cup, 2014

Awards: 2nd Place, *Indica* Flowers (San Francisco 2010 and '11); 2nd Place, *Indica* Flowers (Medical, Seattle 2012); 1st Place, *Indica* Flowers (Medical, Seattle 2013); 2nd Place, *Indica* Flowers (Seed Company, Amsterdam 2012 and '13); 4th Place, *Indica* Flowers (Medical, Seattle 2014).

Grower: Elemental Seeds

Lab-tested by: Steep Hill Labs, Seattle, WA

DESCRIPTION: It's no surprise that OG Kush would show up on The List twice, with literally hundreds of OG phenos and OG-dominant hybrids out there. However, this True OG lives up to her name as one of the truest (if not the truest) on the planet. Of all the original OG cuts, she remains the closest to the storied San Fernando Valley OG, with strong ties to the flavor and aroma of the Chem '91 as well (also a sibling of the OG line).



The True OG is a perennial winner and as we know, flavor trumps potency with most judges.

#9 Zkittlez

Total terp count: 1.9%

Primary terps: linalool (2.68 mg/g); humulene (1.65 mg/g); limonene (1.4 mg/g); trace amounts of myrcene, pinene, nerolidol and terpinolene

Judges' scorecard: 4.2 (out of 5) for taste; 4.5 for aroma

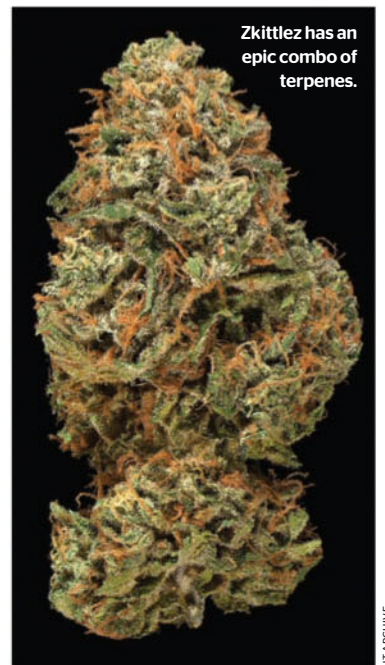
Competition: Michigan Medical Cannabis Cup, 2015

Awards: 1st Place, *Indica* Flowers (Medical)

Grower: 3rd Gen Family x TerpHogz

Lab-tested by: Iron Labs (Walled Lake, MI) and PSI Labs (Ann Arbor)\

DESCRIPTION: Okay, so #9 (and #10) didn't quite make our minimum cut of 2% total terps; however, this one not only took home a first-place prize at this year's Michigan Cup, but it also received some of the highest marks ever recorded from our judges for both taste and aroma. That just shows it's not always the quantity, but rather the quality, of the terps present in a given strain that makes it special—in this case, a highly unique terpene combo that provided this Grapefruit cross with the delicious candy flavor suggested by its name, earning it a spot on The List.

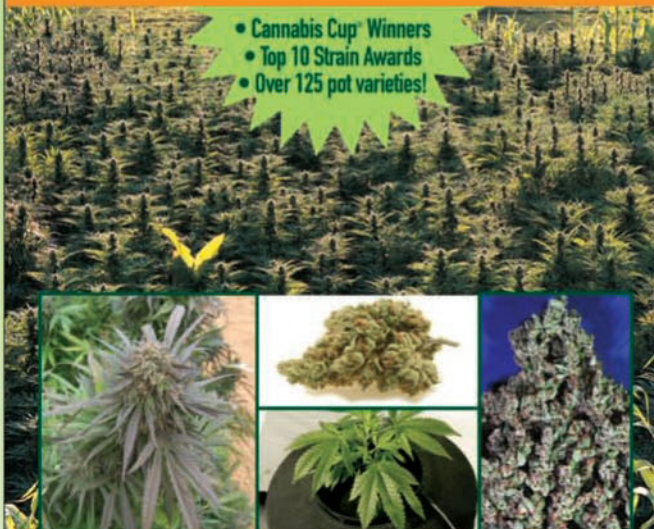


Zkittlez has an epic combo of terpenes.

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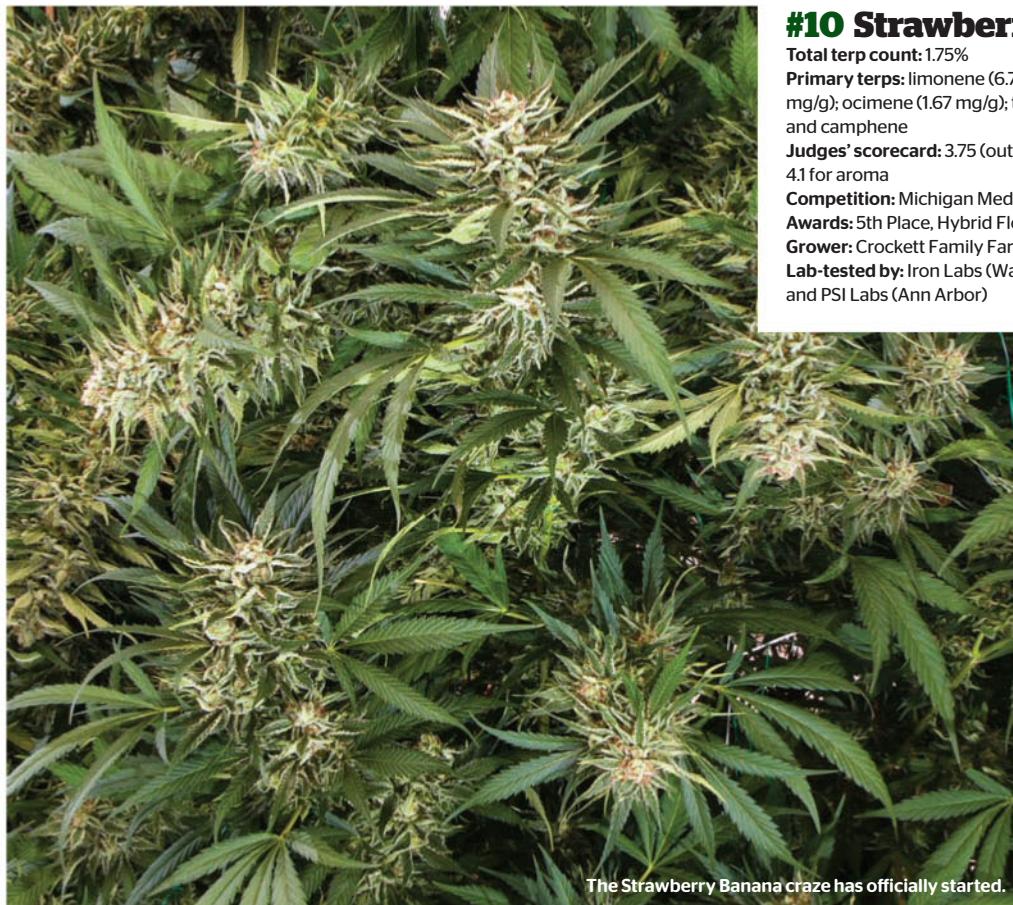


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The Strawberry Banana craze has officially started.

#10 Strawberry Banana

Total terp count: 1.75%

Primary terps: limonene (6.7 mg/g); pinene (2.5 mg/g); myrcene (2.4 mg/g); ocimene (1.67 mg/g); trace amounts of humulene, fenchol and camphene

Judges' scorecard: 3.75 (out of 5) for taste; 4.1 for aroma

Competition: Michigan Medical Cannabis Cup, 2015

Awards: 5th Place, Hybrid Flowers (Medical)

Grower: Crockett Family Farms

Lab-tested by: Iron Labs (Walled Lake, MI) and PSI Labs (Ann Arbor)

DESCRIPTION: Another super terp combo, the Strawberry Banana has been steadily gaining in popularity over the past few years. A hybrid cross of Banana OG and the classic Bubblegum from TH Seeds (Amsterdam, circa 1993), this strain contains volatile terpenoids that burst when they hit the air, inspiring mouths across the room to salivate. Plus her flavor is just as advertised, invoking visions of a Bazooka Joe-Toucan Sam mash-up. 🌿

Special thanks to Sirius J for his contributions to the statistical analysis and reporting in this feature.

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Weight: 36lbs

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HID Wattage Equivalent: 1000w

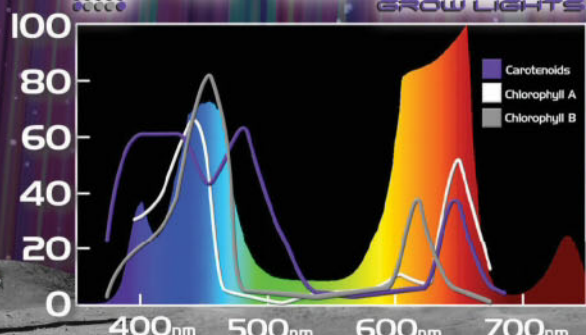
Total Diodes: 320

Footprint: 5'x5'

Infrared/Ultraviolet Diodes: Yes

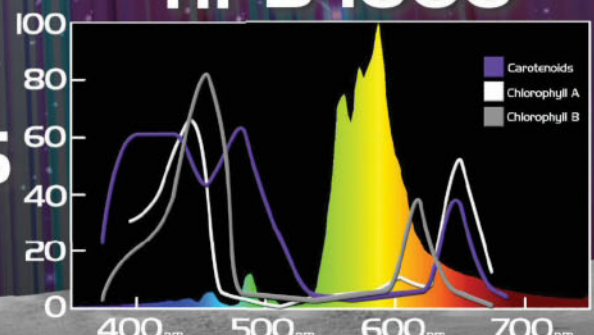
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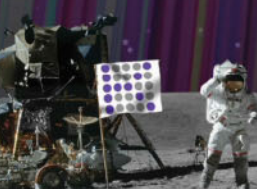
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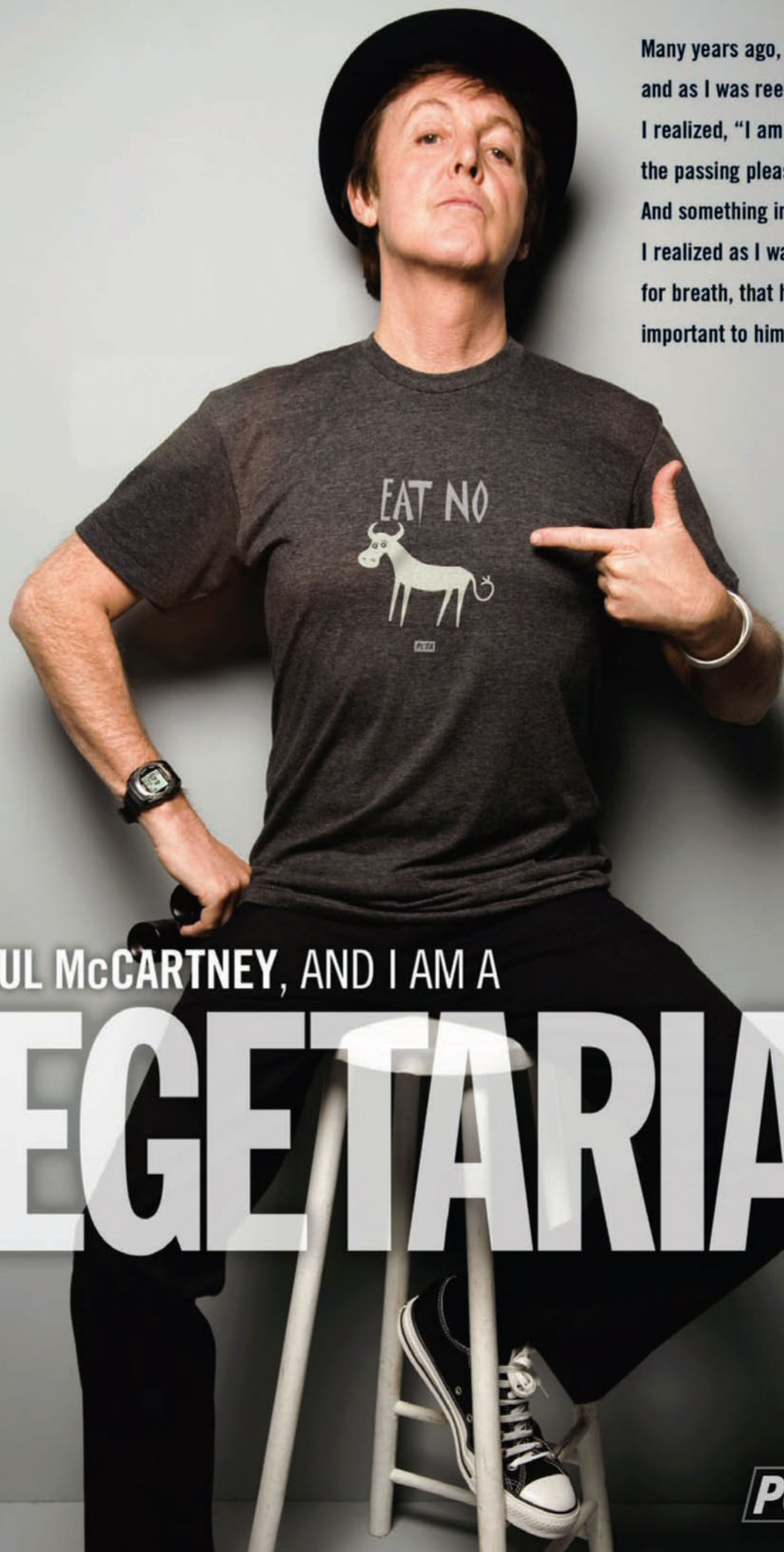


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The anarchist community of Freetown Christiania has thrived in Denmark—notoriously—since the 1970s. But its infamous Green Light District is under siege.

Story & photos by Sirius J.

If you've ever lived in or visited New York City, you probably can't imagine that a major city could be as neat and orderly as Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. No one jaywalks or jumps a subway turnstile; every road has a bike lane running next to it; and homelessness is only for those who refuse to give up alcohol and seek treatment. But in this seemingly law-abiding city, a completely illegal open-air market still sells hash blocks and pre-rolls as if they were tourist postcards and souvenir T-shirts.

It's called the Green Light District, and although it's existed as a "social experiment" since 1971, the government has been trying harder than ever to shut it down. But the fearless dealers of the district—or "Pusher Street," as it's known on the

maps—have matched police tactics at every step. Even under siege, the black-market commerce here is brisker than ever.

The Green Light District is only a small part of Freetown Christiania, the autonomous, quasi-anarchist community that was founded in an old barracks and military factory in Christianshavn, an island neighborhood of Copenhagen. Christiania covers some 85 acres, but only 200 people live here, while another 200 come and go to do business every day.

On Pusher Street, located on Christiania's main drag, the dealers set up shop in little wooden stalls to sell space cakes (the European term for hash-infused edibles), as well as Moroccan hash, weed, BHO, and pre-rolled joints of hash or weed mixed with tobacco.



Everywhere else in Copenhagen, smell-proof bags are a must.



Legalization movements gain traction every day.

When you pass through the main entrance, you become part of an eclectic marketplace. You see dreadlocks, blond Danes, all sorts of tourists and a whole lot of people trying to remain anonymous, skulking around with their heads down, wearing hoodies. Beautiful and badass graffiti covers every building. But signs warn you never to take pictures of anything going down here. It feels like a post-apocalyptic, underground bazaar.

A massive wall of camouflage netting is stretched between two buildings. Beneath it are the huts where weed is sold. A detail of very sketchy-looking twentysomethings stand guard, waiting to sound the alarm if the cops come.

Camo netting is also used to shield the huts. It's decorated with Christmas lights and photos of Bob Marley, but every decoration has an important function. The camo allows you to see only the dealers' gloved hands; even if you peer through the netting, their faces are obscured by aviator shades and balaclavas. One "shop" even has a mirror perfectly set up so that, from a distance, it looks like the customer is the one behind the counter.

Wandering around, I stopped to ask one of the dealers for info about his situation. After speaking for a few minutes through a gap in the camo netting, David invited me into the hut to continue talking. He warned me that it's not good to stand too long in Pusher Street, or else the cops will assume you're a criminal too.

The possession of hash or cannabis will earn you a fine in Copenhagen, but dealing carries jail time. David and his colleague Casper told me that everyone was on edge because 30 people had been arrested not three days before.



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Given the presence of an illegal market that pulls in over \$170 million a year, the cops were bound to take interest. The Copenhagen police even have a specialized Pusher Street unit—and they're not messing around. In the past, the cops would roll in and raid huts on the spot, but now their tactics are more covert. In the early morning, they sneak in when dealers can't find cover among the hordes of tourists. They dress in ghillie suits (camo clothing that resembles heavy foliage) and track individual "pushers" with telescopic lenses, tailing them and recording how many sales they make daily. Then they come and arrest the dealers in their homes and fine them millions in kroner, the local currency.

In the middle of our conversation, a 40-ish guy who seemed like a Pusher Street bigwig rushed in with urgent news, since everyone huddled around him to

listen. I puffed on the pre-roll they gave me and stood back to allow them some privacy, even though I don't speak a lick of Danish. After a few minutes, David shared the news with me: Someone had just gotten popped with 150 kilos of hash and another 30 of flower.

They asked me what the scene in America was like so I gave them a quick description of what was going on in our pot-legal states.

We talked a few minutes longer and, before I left, Casper hooked me up with some nice hash—the smoke of choice in Europe, discreet and easy to smuggle. Many prefer blending it with tobacco to create a flavorful blend that's smoked everywhere from Spain to India.

Hash can be found in abundance here, but the flowers are nothing to sneeze at either. They're mostly imported from the Netherlands, like the Pineapple Express

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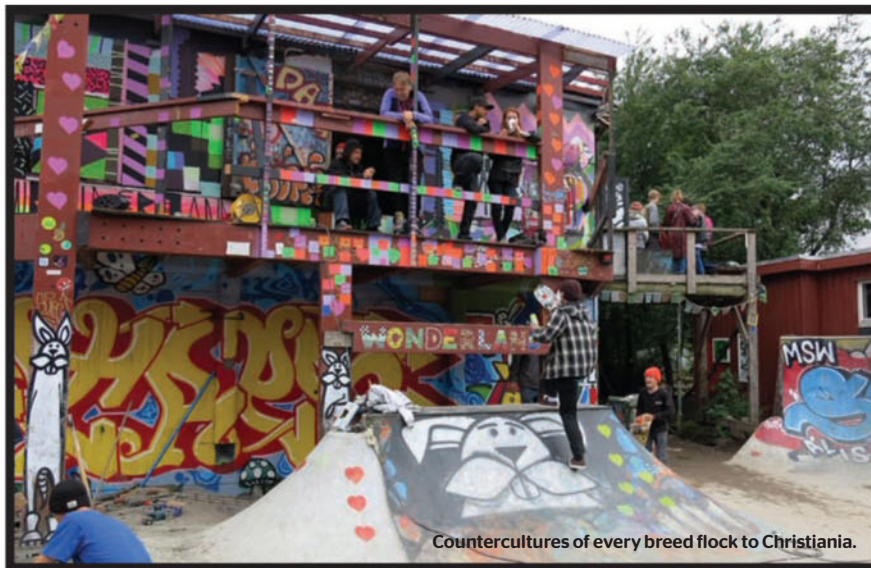


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Countercultures of every breed flock to Christiania.

and OG Kush I tried the first day. But some of these buds are actually grown in Denmark. At one stand, a vendor allowed me to sniff his bags. One specimen absolutely smacked me in the face—when I asked what it was, the vendor replied appreciatively, “You, sir, have a good nose!”

He told me it was Jack Herer, bred here in Denmark, and that the flowers were a product of the original cut. Hands down, it was some of the best weed I’ve ever

smoked. The other native weed must have been pretty heavy on the CBD, with some seeds mixed in. After sampling the rest, I happily stuck with the Jack Herer.

The edibles turned out to be surprisingly powerful. Although I was skeptical at first, a single bite of a space cake was enough to make my mouth tingle and my legs wobble. Then I left Pusher Street and went on an official tour of “The Town.” A veteran resident of Christiania named Pia

was my guide, and she explained the community’s colorful history.

Before 1971, the surrounding neighborhood was basically a slum. After the military officially abandoned its factory, local residents ripped down the fence around the barracks and turned it into a makeshift children’s playground. According to Pia, Denmark was concerned about the possibility of a third world war (this was back in the days of superpower tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States), so the country decided to isolate itself and shut down the military installation.

But that’s Pia’s take on the local history. As elsewhere during the ’70s, Denmark was also undergoing a youth revolution, much like the hippie movement in the US. Young people began squatting in the barracks and turned the space into a commune. The commune’s original mission statement hasn’t changed since its founding: “The objective of Christiania is to create a self-governing society whereby each and every individual holds themselves responsible for the well-being of the entire community. Our society is to be economically self-sustaining and, as such, our aspiration is to be steadfast in our conviction

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that psychological and physical destitution can be averted.”

The Danish Ministry of Defense, which still owned the land, granted the commune “usage rights” from 1973 through ’76, which would allow the ministry enough time to determine how the land would ultimately be used. But the residents of Christiania weren’t going anywhere. When the agreement expired, the Defense Ministry extended the provision until 1978. At that point, Denmark’s Supreme Court ruled that the area should be cleared immediately. However, the Danish Parliament decided that the Freetown could continue its existence under special conditions, because a city plan was needed for the entire district.

In 1989, the Parliament passed the Christiania Law, allowing the Freetown to continue as the only sustainably developed area in Copenhagen. Although the law prohibited further construction, the residents continued to do as they pleased, and the Christiania Law was never really put into effect. Instead, the Defense Ministry drew up a new agreement directly with the residents—an agreement that was periodically renewed until 2004. The ministry planned to demolish a large portion of Christiania’s



No weapons,
no hard drugs, no
violence, no private
cars, no bikers’ colors,
no bulletproof vests...

old factories, but these buildings were—and remain—the homes and businesses of the people living there, however unconventionally. Peaceful negotiations convinced the ministry to demolish only a handful of structures that were in an irreparable state of decay.

Christiania society rolled on, but its freewheeling nature did create some problems. Heroin addicts became somewhat ubiquitous in the 1980s. And while

ganja sales could be made peacefully, biker gangs controlled the hash market. A few violent incidents led to the death of gang members as well as some innocent bystanders.

As a result, Christiania’s residents created a set of rules to help keep the peace: no weapons, no hard drugs, no violence, no private cars, no bikers’ colors, no bulletproof vests, no sale of fireworks, no use of thunderflashes and no stolen goods. The bikers eventually withdrew, but getting rid of the heroin was a harder problem. When the residents tried to give the police a list of smack dealers, the cops came and arrested hash dealers instead, in an attempt to destabilize the community. So the citizens of Christiania took matters into their own hands: They set upon the heroin dealers, ripped off their clothes, threw them into the street, and called the police to complain that naked people were running through town. All of the dealers arrested were charged with public nudity.

Despite having eliminated the violence and hard drugs, The Town discovered that the presence of a few peaceful, weed-smoking hippies still made many Danes angry. Copenhagen was expanding and had gained a reputation as one



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of the world's most advanced cities. But a quasi-anarchist commune continued to exist right in its midst. Wealthy developers wanted to transform the area into a mixed-use zone comprising Christianites and newcomers who would reside in expensive condo buildings. The developers pressured the government to sign over the land, and the government passed a law that rendered Christiania illegal. Daily eviction notices and raids by police led to bitter protests. The land, and the essence of Freetown, was under siege.

Pia recalls it as Christiania's darkest time. I had to reassure myself that the story had a happy ending—even though I was standing right in the middle of the Freetown with friendly Pia by my side. (I must have been pretty high.) The struggle continued, she told me, with the hash market, in particular, coming under heavy pressure. The cops conducted frequent raids and made multiple arrests—but the price of hash never went up, and the dealers continued to sell openly in their wooden stalls.

In 2011, Christiania finally got its big break. The community collaborated with a legal firm and the Ministry of Defense to create a fund that purchased approximately 80 percent of the land. It

The cops conducted frequent raids and made multiple arrests—but the price of hash never went up.



Pia shows us the rules.

borrowed 89 million kroner (more than \$13.5 million) and is slowly paying back the loan month by month. The residents and businesses of Christiania pay most of it, but you can also purchase a “share” for 100 kroner (about \$15), although it isn't an actual share—just a way of investing in the fund. I bought one myself, which means that *High Times* now owns a small (theoretical) piece of the Freetown

pie. Pia told me that a dim-witted venture capitalist once invested 30,000 kroner, only to find out that the shares are merely symbolic.

Freetown Christiania will certainly continue to evolve, but the good news is that it's here to stay. On the other hand, the Green Light District is still on shaky legs. The raids on the hash dealers of Pusher Street continue, although the illegal cannabis trade is now “tolerated” by the police, and an old “pusher hut” is on exhibition at the National Museum of Denmark, having obviously been deemed part of the Danish cultural patrimony, right alongside Viking rune stones and the Danish crown jewels.


Although the police are trying hard to discourage the dealers, I doubt they're succeeding. Even so, an open-air bazaar that serves a multimillion-dollar black market in cannabis and hash—with much of the latter imported all the way from Africa—remains a slap in the face to the Danish and European authorities. But this much is clear: After more than 40 years of fighting to continue its improbable existence, Christiania is one of the most interesting places on Earth—and it deserves a prominent place on every stoner's bucket list. ✱

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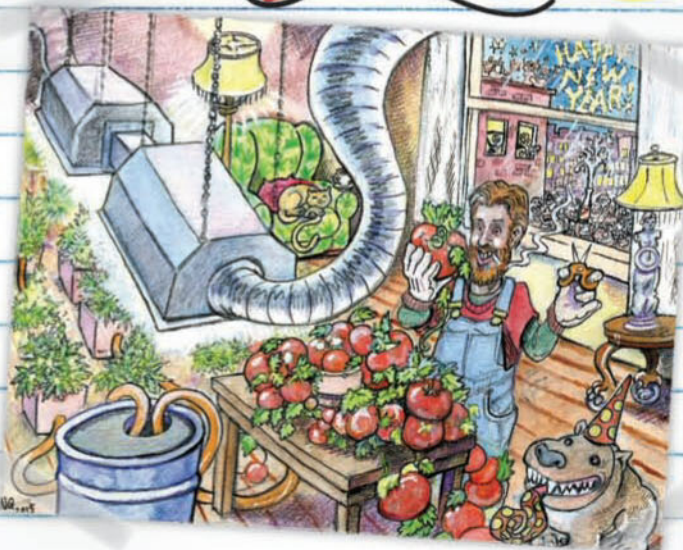
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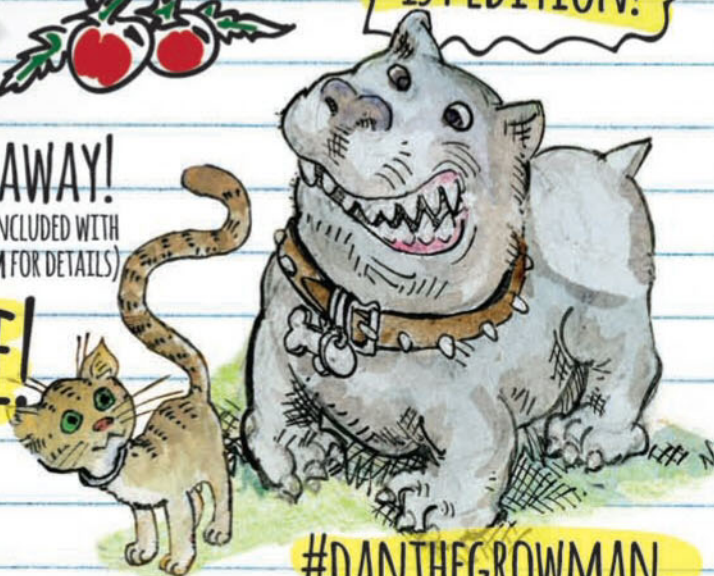
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Flavor Country

DNA Genetics partners with Crockett Family Farms to create a state-of-the-art greenhouse full of flavorful strains.

Story by Elise McDonough, photos by Lochfoot



Welcome to
the future
of cannabis
cultivation.

From the south, a helicopter rapidly approaches Crockett's greenhouse, which is full of ripe cannabis plants. A home for Tangle and other exotic strains, the facility represents a huge investment for the up-and-coming seed breeder. It's just a few days before harvest, but in a sign of how far California's pot farmers have come, the telltale sound of whirring blades isn't cause for panic-only celebration.

Back when Crockett was a young man, growing huge outdoor plants with his uncles on a mountainside in Northern Cali, a helicopter's approach meant impending doom. Now, as the chopper touches down in the field near his crop, Crockett races out eagerly to greet it. That's because it isn't the cops making a raid; it's his buddy Aaron from DNA Genetics, arriving to deliver buckets of nutrients in the most baller way possible: direct from So-Cal via a friend's private helicopter.

"Man, you wouldn't *believe* how many gardens

we saw on the way here!" Aaron enthuses by way of greeting us. "The whole state's blowing up!" Hugs are exchanged, and then Crockett introduces sons and cousins, wives and girlfriends, because everyone involved with Crockett Family Farms really *is* family in some way—even Aaron, who describes his relationship with Crockett as "a brother from another mother."

As the cannabis industry consolidates and new regulations are drafted to govern the legal sale of medical marijuana in the state, many mom-and-pop growers like Crockett are scrambling to scale up and start branding. Without access to bank loans and traditional forms of capital, too many people end up in partnerships with greedheads whose only motivation is money. However, the relationship forged by DNA Genetics and Crockett Family Farms is an example of how to do things right—benefiting not only those directly involved in their business, but the cannabis community as a whole.

A walk through the greenhouse is true aromatherapy.



Aaron is the co-founder of DNA Genetics, which was established in 2003. When I ask what he looks for in a partner, he replies: “You need to have a friendship—something more than business. Crockett is a genuine person, a true friend, and his family is very humble.” Both men bring a sense of passion and purpose to their endeavors and have dedicated their lives to the cannabis plant.

“Cannabis growing is my joy,” Crockett says about his experience cultivating, breeding, and amassing an extensive catalog of clone-only strains and exclusive genetics. Being part of the DNA Genetics family allows him to continue his work and ensure that his seeds are distributed around the world.

Terpene Farmers

Stepping into the greenhouse here is pure aromatherapy. Robust plants crowd the center aisle; as you push your way past them, different scents and flavors compete for attention. “Walking through the greenhouse is like walking through an orchard,” Crockett says, giving me a tour of the various strains, which include Tangie as well as Strawberry Banana, Gorilla Glue, Lemon Skunk and various other crosses. The air fills with a dank citrus and overripe berry musk, perfuming our clothes and hair. Immersing yourself in these plants is intoxicating in its own right—but

Tangie’s dominance signaled a shift toward strains with more flavor versus increased potency.

smoking their cured flowers is even better.

Crockett started developing Tangie circa 2009, and he was generous in sharing his work from the very beginning. Back then, the unique strain with its well-known zesty tangerine flavor was called Cali O, but it sadly faded from popularity as the OG Kush craze gripped local cultivators. But Crockett kept growing it, and after meeting the boys from DNA Genetics, a very portentous cross was created. DNA gifted Crockett with a citrus-based Skunk male, and the resulting Skunk x Cali O plants grew into the phenomenon known as Tangie.

In 2013, Tangie won top honors at the High Times Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam in the Seed Company *Sativa* category, which Crockett calls “an awesome, unbelievable experience.” From there, the honors began to avalanche. “We won awards at the Cannabis Cup the same day as we won in Chile,” he exclaims, recounting the Tangie fever that spread through the cannabis community in 2014—the year when the trendy strain took a whopping nine prizes at various competitions spread over several continents.

I first met Crockett and his wife in the backroom of the DNA Genetics shop in Amsterdam after their multiple wins

that year, where we traded bong hits and talked terps. Tangie’s dominance has signaled a shift in the preference of cannabis aficionados toward strains with more flavor versus increased potency. “Having the most powerful concentrate isn’t necessarily better than something that you really enjoy smoking,” Crockett points out. “You can take two dabs of something with great flavor and get just as high as one dab of a really powerful concentrate that might not taste as good.”

It’s one more harbinger of the increasing mainstream acceptance of cannabis and its ongoing transformation from illegal street drug to treasured quality-of-life enhancer. By way of analogy, wine connoisseurs aren’t seeking the strongest, most stupefying alcohol content; they’re seeking exquisite flavor and terroir and the best representation of the grape varieties, be it Cabernet or pinot noir, that the wine is supposed to embody.

To bring out the best flavor in your Tangie plants, Crockett recommends an all-organic nutrient base, though he notes that it can be successfully grown in hydroponic systems as well, where it will yield more—but without the most intense tangerine flavor.

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"It has a great, uplifting high," he says. "I like to smoke it in the morning."

Crockett smoked tons of Tangie (at least figuratively) while refining his various phenotypes. Starting with an extensive pheno hunt that involved hundreds of plants, he narrowed his selections down to 20 Tangie varieties that he worked with over the course of a year. Examining their subtle differences, he noted that some of the plants had the deep orange smell but not enough resin production, while others delivered larger buds without as much aroma. Almost all of them had the citrus background Crockett was looking for, but only a few had the ideal combination of yield, aroma, flavor, growth rate and resin production.

Today, Crockett works with three Tangie phenos, and his favorite, Crockett's Cut, is the one that's been winning awards so reliably. The other phenos make better solventless water hashes, so they're grown and bred for that purpose.

"The concentrate game has changed," Aaron notes. "Growers specifically grow for concentrates now." He advises hash-makers to cut the plants down a little early, when the trichomes are not yet amber but more milky and clear, to get a better terpene profile. Keep your hash and flowers out of the sunlight and away from heat to preserve the terps, and (as always) store them in a cool, dark, dry place.

Crockett's really been liking the live resin lately, since it's less work to produce—though it doesn't store as well as the hash made from cured, dry flowers. "Consume it quickly—the faster the better—as it will change over time," Aaron notes. "Fresh-frozen makes great water hash, but it doesn't last too long."

Fortunately, the live resin created from Tangie plants is so delicious that long-term storage is rarely an issue!

Designing the Smart Greenhouse

Months after our meeting in Amsterdam, I visited Crockett's booth at the San Bernardino Cannabis Cup, where I heard about his next big project: creating the perfect growing environment for his prized strains. Working with DNA and other sponsors, Crockett envisioned a smart greenhouse that would respond automatically to changing environmental conditions, and he started construction on the project in November 2014. The greenhouse was prepared for its first crop around April 2015—so when I visited in July, those plants were nearly ready to harvest.

A true collaborative effort, the



greenhouse was made possible through the friendly relationships that DNA Genetics has fostered with the manufacturers of lighting, grow tech, nutrients and supplements. "These companies are excited to be working with DNA and Crockett," Aaron explains. "They're thriving because of our backing" on DNA's various social media platforms, where an endorsement of a lamp or nutrient leads other cultivators to seek out those items. It's not just about getting free products, as Aaron makes clear in his typical straightforward style: "We have experience with these companies. When we say we believe in a product, people want to know why, thinking, 'They must be using it because it's good.'"

Sponsored by SolisTek, Mills Nutrients, Myco-Fusion and Vital Garden Supply, the Conley 1300LD MT Series greenhouse has a number of fascinating features, including thermal floors, a built-in weather station and an automatic light-deprivation system. The growing environment is monitored through an incredibly sensitive Agrowtek GC Pro controller. "If you fart in our greenhouse, the side walls will go up and the ridge vents will open," Aaron jokes. "The fans might even go on, too."

Crockett explains that the controller works as the greenhouse's automated brain, with programmable features that control the temperature and humidity, keeping environmental conditions consistent for optimal plant growth. When the weather station senses temperatures reaching 76°F, the controller opens the ridge vents 10 percent. At 77°F, the vents will open another 10 percent, and the side walls slide open 20 percent. As the sun continues to beat down and the temps climb to 80°F, the fans come on and the walls and vents open wider. "Especially in the morning, when it's going from cold to warm, you can see it working," Crockett says. "The plants are thriving, even on the coldest and foggiest days."

The automatic light-dep system is the most technologically advanced aspect of the project—"a greenhouse inside a greenhouse," according to its designer and builder. The 11 panels travel 11 feet apiece, slowly moving on tracks until the greenhouse is completely plunged into darkness. "Even during a full moon," he adds, "it will close."

(Top) Aaron, co-founder of DNA Genetics, with Crockett, "his brother from another mother."
(Middle) Tangie has dominated cannabis competitions due to its unique fruity flavor.
(Bottom) Strawberry Banana could be the next big sensation from Crockett Family Farms.

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There are also a number of emergency protocols designed to protect the plants. If the weather station detects high wind speeds, the side walls and ridge vents shut and the fans go on, preventing damage to the crop. If it's raining outside, the vents will close, keeping water off the lights.

Measuring 30 feet wide, 120 feet long and 14.5 feet high, the greenhouse is ventilated by two Schaffer 48-inch exhaust fans and six Schaffer 20-inch HAF fans. Forty-five lights combined with SolisTek ballasts and Max 56 hoods deliver the right amount of light when the sun's not shining, while the thermal floors help keep root systems comfortable throughout the night. "Heat rises, and the plants respond a lot more to floor heating than regular heaters," Crockett explains. "Thermal floors heat gradually and keep entire root systems warm."

While the crew hand-watered the first crop, additional automated systems will come online for the next harvest, including daily water and nutrient delivery. Sections of the greenhouse can be programmed for specific strains, enabling customized fertilizer regimens. "For example, LA Confidential, all the way through veg and flower—the dosing system knows exactly what to give it at what time," Crockett says,

"The controller works as the greenhouse's automated brain, with programmable features that keep environmental conditions consistent."

discussing how the various strains can be linked to multiple nutrient tanks.

With so much automation, do the gardeners risk putting themselves out of work? "If you're a madman, you could do it all by yourself," Crockett replies. But, realistically, it's best to have a staff of three tending the plants and maintaining the systems. The Agrowtek controller can manage up to five separate facilities, and Crockett's long-term vision involves a complex of several identical smart greenhouses. Eventually, there won't even be enough space to land a helicopter!

Next Best Thing

When we sat down to talk, Crockett treated us to a taste of some experimental phenotypes currently in development, like the Clementine #5 and #10, with a deep orange flavor and aroma. "I think flavor has

eclipsed potency," Aaron says. "Everything gets you high, but not everything tastes great." Developing strains that rely on flavor is another way to shape the plant to match the preferences of passionate connoisseurs. "We breed for ourselves," Aaron concludes. "I thoroughly enjoy cannabis, and so I always want the next best thing."

And that "next best thing" just might be Strawberry Banana, a Bubblegum and Banana OG cross with an intense, fruity flavor and aroma, which has the potential to become another game-changing strain. "It's *frosty*," Crockett says appreciatively. "You can make really good solventless with Strawberry Banana, but it doesn't yield as much as Tangie."

As the cannabis industry changes and grows, Aaron and Crockett agree that it can be difficult to stay focused. Although the custom greenhouse is a huge achievement, both men want to continue to specialize in developing genetics and breeding seeds. "What I love most is making these strains," Crockett affirms, while Aaron agrees that it's important to focus on what you do best rather than trying to do everything.

"Very few times in life can you ride a wave like this," he says. "The dreaming isn't over for either of us." ✨

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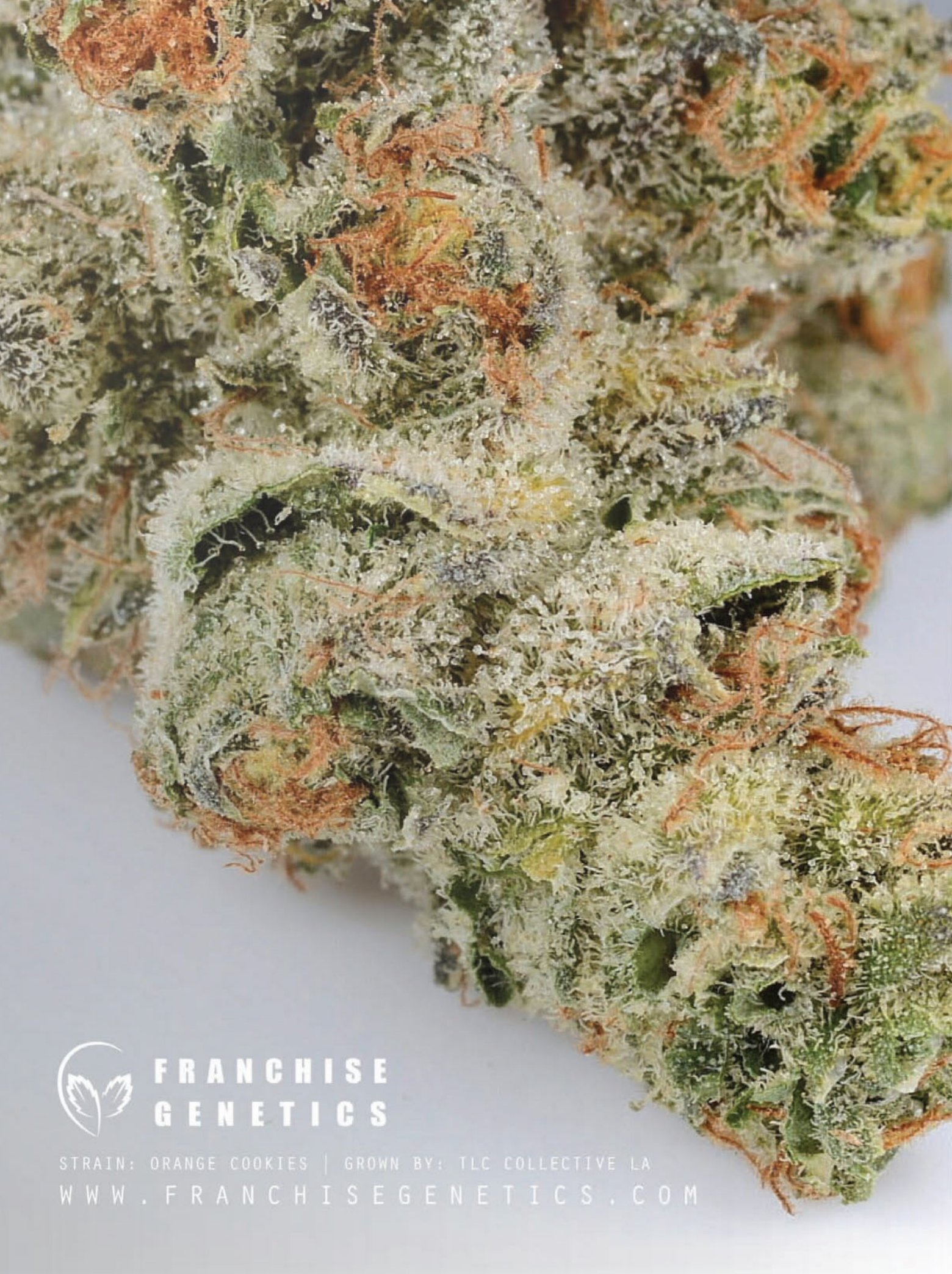


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This garden was raided less than 24 hours after this photo was shot.



Michigan's March to Legalization

Medical cannabis has been legal in Michigan since 2008. But ever since the law's passage, caregivers and patients have been targeted by law enforcement. Now the state's marijuana movement says it's time to legalize the plant—completely. *Story & photos by Dan Skye*

It's a quiet Sunday morning in September, with the rolling farmlands of Michigan stretched out all around me. A light wind scents the air with an early fall fragrance. This is my third stop on the harvest trail, after travels through the grow scene in Northern California and Colorado.

Darryl Berry is giving me a tour of a few medical marijuana gardens that he and other Michigan growers have been collaborating on, sharing costs and genetics. Pursuant to state law, they are

all registered as legal caregivers.

Cali and Colorado have got nothing on the Great Lakes State. A skilled outdoor grower in possession of great genetics, and who cares deeply about his crop, will find success pretty much anywhere—but especially in Michigan, with its 10 million acres of farmland.

The gardens here are surrounded by fort-like fencing. Rows of robust pot plants glisten with trichomes. Each operation is completely transparent: All of the legal paperwork is in order, and neither Berry nor any of his colleagues have

exceeded the state-specified plant counts.

Berry has been visited regularly by State Police narcotics task forces since he started growing in 2012. In fact, in both 2014 and 2015, he invited them. Both times the police declined, saying it was unnecessary. This past July, he even requested that they cease their helicopter flyovers, which had been disturbing his neighbors. As they were already aware of his garden, he argued, it made no sense.

Suddenly, the Sunday-morning quiet is punctured by the sound of a plane circling above us. All eyes look up. Everyone

agrees that it's probably just a flying instructor with a student, using the empty skies for a few practice maneuvers.

Unfortunately, we couldn't be more wrong. Less than 24 hours later, a western Wayne County and State Police task force consisting of 40-plus cops swooped down on all of the gardens. They used tow trucks and semis to haul away the plants, and they also seized the growers' personal possessions, in that scourge of legal thievery known as "asset forfeiture."

Asset forfeiture is a tactic used by law enforcement to punish those arrested not only for drug crimes, but for any serious criminal offense. Originally designed as a way to target organized crime and large-scale drug traffickers, asset forfeiture has become, in Michigan and elsewhere, the preferred way for law-enforcement agencies to fund themselves.

Michigan law specifies that forfeiture funds be used to "enhance" police activities. All property of value is seized, regardless of how minor or major the offense actually is. In 2013, the net proceeds in Michigan exceeded \$22 million. Naturally, that creates incentives for cops to pursue forfeiture more vigorously than actual criminal activity. In fact, it's estimated that property and assets seized from medical marijuana growers comprise as much as 70 percent of Michigan's forfeiture funds.

In Berry's case, the growers had their vehicles, computers, phones and televisions seized, despite the fact that the cops from previous visits—the ones who had stated that the gardens weren't illegal—were part of the raid. Their bank accounts were looted, then frozen. Passports, credit cards and patient-information files were confiscated. Now it's up to the growers to go to court and recover their property, which is difficult considering that they have no money or assets left to use in hiring lawyers.



It's estimated that property and assets seized from medical marijuana growers comprise as much as 70 percent of Michigan's forfeiture funds.

Berry, his wife and their two sons were interrogated in four separate locations. His family was released from jail the next day, but Berry spent three days behind bars. Upon his release, he received a copy of the search warrant, which had been "unavailable" during the raid. Now he has a simple question: "How can this be possible when medical marijuana has been legal in Michigan since 2008?"

It's a question that Jamie Lowell and Rick Thompson have been asking as well. They're both influential activists. Lowell, a dispensary co-owner, was formerly a licensed real-estate appraiser. When the market tanked in the 2008 recession, he and his co-workers sought a new direction—one that coincided with the passage of Michigan's medical marijuana law.

"I was already in tune with the idea

of it as medicine," Lowell says. (He uses medical cannabis to ease the effects of fibromyalgia.) "But some of the guys weren't at all. They liked the idea of the opportunity, though."

One of Lowell's main clients, Darryl Stavros, was living in a building in downtown Ypsilanti. Today, that building is home to the 3rd Coast Compassion Center.

"It was a central location for facilitating what the point of the Medical Marijuana Act was," Lowell says. "We started operation in the summer of 2009, and the town of Ypsilanti worked with us. They asked a lot of questions, visited some gardens and did research on their own. They consulted other organizations and groups, and they decided to make an ordinance that would allow for dispensaries. There are now seven here, and we've been getting licensed regularly since 2011."

Some early partners came and went, but Lowell's strong connection to the plant propelled him into the ranks of the state's cannabis-law reform activists. "I ended up slipping into the role of handling press," he says. "I guess I was kind of naïve—I believed that everybody would look at this act as a great opportunity,

like we did."

But the anti-pot opposition soon went to work mounting strategies against the act. Lowell's dispensary ended up joining forces with different organizations and even started the Michigan Association of Compassion Centers to offer mutual support.

"Things just exploded," Lowell recalls. "We responded to what needed to be done. We wanted to utilize this act, make it more functional and yet be within its spirit. We wanted to satisfy other good things, like the economic development of a city—utilizing buildings, creating jobs and drawing people to an area."

Most tales from the annals of medical marijuana in Michigan aren't as upbeat as the 3rd Coast saga. For example, Rick Thompson once managed a chain of



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Midwest furniture stores, but he decided to move into the medical marijuana industry after his best friend, Rick Ferris, started the first of five Big Daddy dispensaries in Oakland County. The two founded the *Michigan Medical Marijuana Magazine*, with Thompson as its editor. Eventually, he became part of the dispensary hierarchy.

But in 2011, the Big Daddy in Oak Park

freedom has been taken, even after we gained the support of the public for a law. I'm angry that so many different jurisdictions have ignored the plain language that's written in the act, and interpreted it so that people who are supposed to be protected are vulnerable. I'm angry about all of the children whose parents have been put through the [legal] system, and the stigma that

two. According to Michigan State Police data, arrests for possession or use jumped 17 percent between 2008 and 2014—even as overall arrests dropped by 15 percent. Of the 20,483 marijuana arrests in 2014, 86 percent were for possession or use, with young people bearing the brunt: 43 percent of those arrested were between the ages of 18 and 24. Furthermore, African-Americans were three times more likely to get busted.

Adding to this war on state residents, the Michigan State Police laboratories have been accused of falsely reporting marijuana as synthetic THC, essentially bumping a misdemeanor charge up to a felony.

Lowell and Thompson are both heavily involved in the efforts to bring an end to this hideous era, during which unscrupulous politicians and law-enforcement officials have defied and denied the will of the people. Specifically, state activists have mounted the MI Legalize campaign, a sweeping proposal to legalize all forms of marijuana use for adults 21 and older, including topicals, oils and tinctures. The initiative authorizes a framework for a licensed cannabis economy, but it also allows adults to cultivate up to 12 plants. Most important, it removes all criminal penalties for the cultivation, possession and distribution of marijuana, with the exception of sales to unauthorized minors.

Lowell is confident that the MI Legalize initiative will appear on the 2016 ballot. "Funding has been generous, and our signature-gathering events have been terrifically successful," he says.

Meanwhile, the unjust status quo continues. State Attorney General Bill Schuette has opposed the Medical Marijuana Act since his election in 2010, and his office has encouraged the prosecution of cannabis-industry members. A representative of the AG's office was even present at the raid on Darryl Berry's garden.

Schuette has long contended that dispensaries have no legal right to exist, which has resulted in a sharp drop in their numbers since the heady days following passage of the act. Because the original initiative didn't actually address the issue of dispensaries, and subsequent court rulings have only succeeded in confusing everyone, dispensary owners must rely on tolerant city governments and local law enforcement to stay in business, as in the case of 3rd Coast Compassion.

Rhory Gould has run the Arborside dispensary, one of several in Ann Arbor,



"We've done our best to mitigate the gray areas in the law as we understand them. But, obviously, law enforcement is freer to interpret those meanings."

was raided, resulting in criminal charges that were filed nearly a year later. Then a second Big Daddy location, this one in Chesterfield Township, was sued by local officials as a public nuisance—a lawsuit that the state attorney general's office, led by Bill Schuette, an outspoken foe of medical marijuana, also joined. The legal attack resulted in the closure of all of Big Daddy's dispensaries, and Ferris ended up serving two years in jail.

"I'm angry," Thompson says of the whole ordeal. "I'm angry that Michigan has missed out on the opportunity for economic success. I'm angry that people's

their kids will carry the rest of their lives. I'm angry that young people get criminal records for non-violent, victimless offenses, which stick with them forever, and then are denied opportunities to be successful in life due to educational losses and discrimination in the workplace. I'm angry about *all* of that."

And Thompson has every reason to be: Ever since the Medical Marijuana Act was passed by a majority of Michigan's voters, pot arrests in the state have spiked. Check out these sobering stats: The number-one criminal conviction in Michigan is prostitution; marijuana is number



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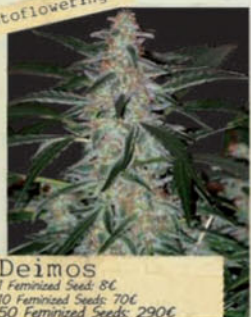
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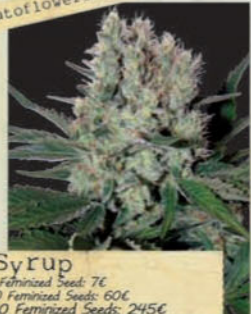
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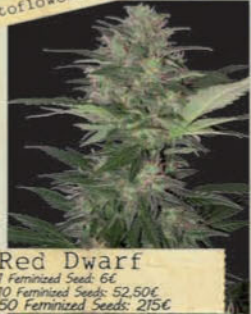
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AS SEEN ON:   



Rhory Gould of Arborside feels safe, but raids do concern him.



Rick Thompson and Jamie Lowell discuss strategy.

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since 2011. “We passed these laws,” he says, “and immediately the politicians went to work tearing them down. For seven years, we’ve been operating in a gray zone. But I have to admit, I feel pretty safe in Ann Arbor. The city has been supportive. But with no dispensary laws at the moment, it’s been our responsibility to hold ourselves to higher standards. Still, getting raided is always in the back of my mind.”

Josh Keasler heads up Skunkwerks in Michigan, a nutrient company that relies on ingredients developed a century ago by Dennis Hoagland and Daniel Arnon, two professors at the University of California, Berkeley.

“Our formula is comprised of organic, technical-grade elements,” Keasler explains. “Technical-grade elements are those with zero impurities that can be used in laboratory settings and are completely controlled from top to bottom.”

Keasler also consults on 20 grow ops, indoors and out, in Michigan and elsewhere. “We’ve done our best to mitigate the gray areas in the law as we understand them,” he says. “But, obviously, law enforcement is freer to interpret those meanings”—which has been bad news for growers like Darryl Berry.

“Since 2008, we’ve tried to operate professionally and move forward without clarification from our legislature,” Keasler adds. “And we still haven’t gotten it. Large-scale growers need guidance. The issue of transportation needs to be addressed. I’m totally behind MI Legalize, because the people of Michigan want this!”

One final note: As we go to press, Darryl Berry still hasn’t been charged, and his business—and life—remain upended. 🌿

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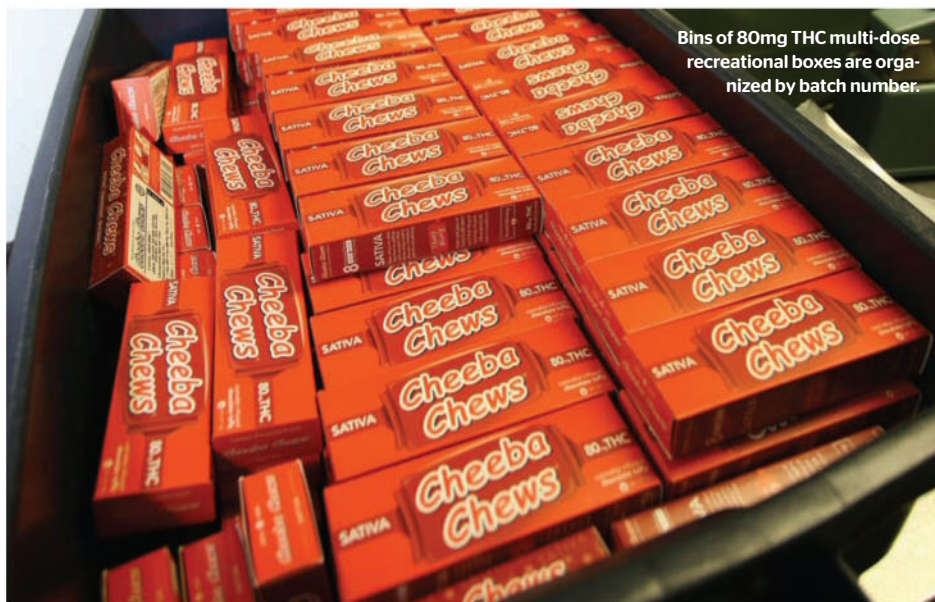
The industry's leading edibles company rolls out a recreational line of treats. *By Samantha Nicholas*



Food-grade thermoform trays are sealed and cut into multi-dose recreational 8-packs of Cheeba Chews.

Industrial kitchens inspire awe. I visited the Heinz factory in Pittsburgh on a sixth-grade field trip, and the memory of swimming-pool-sized vats of mustard and ketchup bottles on an interminable assembly line remains with me still. Whether it's a foundry, factory, brewery or bakery, serving a huge customer base requires sophisticated automation.

The cannabis industry has reached the point where it, too, has embraced the technology of mass production—and while it's not on the scale of Heinz (yet), the new era of machinery designed to help legal cannabis businesses thrive is definitely here.



Bins of 80mg THC multi-dose recreational boxes are organized by batch number.



Lab-tested cannabis oil is hand-mixed into a chocolate taffy base.



Infused recreational taffy is being deposited into 10mg cavities.

These days, across its licensed entities, more than 50,000 Cheeba Chews candies are produced every week.

The brand got started in the personal kitchen of CEO James Howler in 2009. As Colorado's cannabis industry was taking root, Howler noticed serious flaws in the production of edibles: There was no consistency in dosages, which meant that consumer trust was shaky. A licensed medical grower, Howler had access to plenty of trim, which he'd been selling to dispensaries. But the void in the area of cannabis edibles pushed him into the kitchen instead.

Medical marijuana patients are thankful for these discreet, professionally packaged candies (nothing about a Cheeba Chew screams out "Pot!"), which are made with a blend of either *indica*- or *sativa*-dominant strains. The premium cannabis oil used in the company's recipes is tested at three different stages—the harvested flower, the oil and the edible itself—to ensure a consistent experience for every Cheeba chewer.

Howler cites the company's core

I'm standing in the industrial kitchen of Cheeba Chews in Denver. It's nothing like a conglomerate's food-processing plant—perhaps a mere 25 by 25 feet, with a couple of small offices situated adjacent to the action.

But you should never judge a kitchen by its size. Cheeba Chews is America's—if

not the world's—leading brand of cannabis-infused candies, available in medical dispensaries in California and Colorado, as well as in the latter state's 300-plus recreational cannabis shops. These days, across its licensed entities, more than 50,000 Cheeba Chews candies are produced every *week*.

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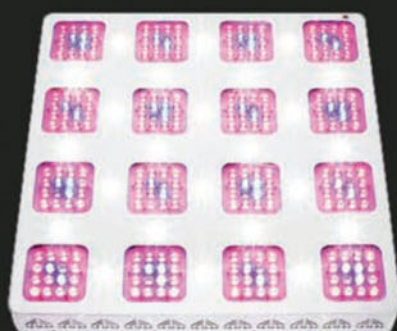
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“The company has grown organically. Entering the recreational market in Colorado has brought growth and structure to our business.”

market,” Howler says. “It allowed us to take a look at how the industry was going to be impacted. We’ve seen it take on a major transformation: Not only do recreational products now need to be secured in child-resistant packaging, they also must be provided in 10 mg, single-dose increments. Soon, manufacturers will be required to mark products for identification beyond packaging.”

Those safeguards reflect the concerns over edibles on the recreational market—specifically, the possibility of accidental ingestion or overconsumption. “We wanted to make sure Cheeba Chews not only addressed those concerns,” Howler explains, “but showed that our industry can solve these issues without additional regulations.”

To do so, the company hired an engineering firm to help build a customized “depositing” machine—one that could

values: “We make sure we provide a consistent edible that consumers and bud-tenders can rely on. Plus we go the extra mile in testing and preparation to ensure that Cheeba Chews maintain a high level of potency. People know they’re getting an edible product that will provide relief anytime, anywhere necessary.” Cheeba Chews come in a variety of flavors and

doses, with the dosage listed prominently on each Chew. (A non-psychoactive Pure CBD Cheeba Chew is also available.)

Looking at the company’s success, it’s a bit surprising to hear that Colorado’s transition from a medical to a recreational-use state caused Cheeba Chews a moment of pause. “Our initial decision was to hold off before jumping into the recreational

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Cheebe Chews are packaged in carefully measured single doses for users.

handle the viscosity of Cheeba Chew's taffy while still measuring out and inserting the correct dose. "Once we fine-tuned the depositing process, we had to reinvent our packaging," Howler continues. "So we designed a multi-dose package that allows the depositing machine to pour infused taffy chews into single 10 mg-dose cavities, which are then securely sealed for freshness. This packaging

helps a consumer quickly find their optimal dosing level by ingesting one 10 mg Chew at a time."

According to requirements, each cavity is also marked with a "10 mg THC" imprint. So when a Cheeba Chew is popped out of its package, a very clear stamp remains to remind consumers of the contents.

"This was a large overhaul for our

brand on the recreational side," Howler admits. "But we've made sure to keep our successful medical products intact, in the same way they've always been provided."

Cheebe Chews' success has enabled the company to expand, including a new line of caramels, the mixed-fruit Green Hornet gummy and the Dabba mint chocolate. But even with its meteoric growth, as well as the ever-increasing interest that the cannabis industry has been receiving in general, Cheeba Chews remains privately owned and 100 percent self-funded.

"We haven't taken a dime of credit or investment," Howler says proudly. "The company has grown organically. Entering the recreational market in Colorado has brought growth and structure to our business. We now have a small executive team and, including our licensed partners, over 30 employees. We've got a lot of ground to cover—manufacturing, packaging, quality assurance, sanitation, customer service, HR, marketing, sales. But our success is a testament to hard work, accountability and a dedication to detail."

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INTERVIEW BY
DAN SKYE

NICK DIAZ

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

EARLY IN HIS CAREER AS A MIXED-MARTIAL-ARTS FIGHTER, NICK DIAZ WAS TAGGED AS SOMEONE WHO HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE MEDIA. DIAZ ROLLS HIS EYES AND SCOFFS AT THE ASSERTION. “I DON’T LIKE PEOPLE IN MY FACE WHEN I’M GETTING READY FOR A FIGHT—CONSTANTLY TRYING TO GET A STORY, ASKING HOW I FEEL, TRYING TO GET A QUOTE,” HE SAYS.

HE ALSO ISN’T TOO FOND OF FANS WHO PULL OUT CELL PHONES TO TAKE A SELFIE WHEN THEY MEET HIM. “I JUST NEED MY SPACE,” HE EXPLAINS.

AND YET, AT HIS STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA HOME, DIAZ IS SELF-POSSESSED, RELAXED AND PLEASANT. HE SIPES A BEER WHILE TALKING ABOUT HIS RECENT ORDEAL WITH THE UFC AND THE FIGHT LIFE IN GENERAL. HE’S BEEN FIGHTING SINCE 2001, AND HE’S EARNED A REPUTATION AS ONE OF THE MOST FEROCIOUS COMPETITORS IN THE SPORT. IN SEPTEMBER, HE WAS FINED \$165,000 AND SUSPENDED BY THE UFC FOR FIVE YEARS FOLLOWING HIS THIRD POSITIVE TEST FOR CANNABIS, AFTER HIS JANUARY 2015 FIGHT WITH ANDERSON SILVA. IT WAS SEEN AS A CAREER-ENDING PUNISHMENT—ONE HARSH ENOUGH THAT THE CANNABIS COMMUNITY MOUNTED A WHITE HOUSE PETITION DRIVE TO HAVE THE BAN LIFTED.

OUTRAGE OVER THE PENALTY HAS BEEN SO INTENSE, IN FACT, THAT, AS WE GO TO PRESS, THE NEVADA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION IS RECONSIDERING ITS DECISION DUE TO PUBLIC PRESSURE.

AT THE EYE OF THE HURRICANE THAT THE UFC HAS CREATED FOR ITSELF, HOWEVER, DIAZ SEEMS AMAZINGLY SERENE. HE’S CERTAINLY NOT DONE FIGHTING—AND HE CERTAINLY WON’T BE CHANGING HIS WAYS.



Diaz contemplates his future at home in Stockton, CA.

It's been a month now since the suspension. How are you feeling?

I've just had some good time off, from the time of that fight until now. I didn't expect to fight anytime between then and now—so I've just been trying to make some ends meet, standing outside of the whole fight world.

Are you still angry? Because you were pretty angry after the verdict came down.

Yeah, well, I'm always real angry. But I don't take it as a loss. I haven't taken any fight as a loss in the UFC—it's hard to come back from losses. Defeat is only a state of mind, and I've never come to that state of mind.

It's not like I purposely failed my test, but I purposely did not give a shit. I'm more focused on giving more of a shit about the fight.

You seem somewhat philosophical about this, not all that bitter.

Everything has been a gamble for me. Money and everything [that goes with it] is really a big liability. I could have been a regular guy. People from where I'm from don't make a hundred grand a year.

At the time, I *was* upset. It felt like everybody was really putting it to me; I was kind of at a loss for words. I mean, I heard one of the commissioners owns cannabis dispensaries, and I'm suspended for five years? They don't suspend guys for steroids—but I get five years, and this guy owns dispensaries.

The whole thing is—I don't even wanna say the word, but it sounds like a setup... like the whole thing was just set up for everything to go down the way it did. It's such a joke.

Do you think the test was rigged?

I knew that if I was tested, I'd come up under 15 nanograms—which I did. I knew I wasn't going to come up over

100 nanograms, which was their level. Then I was tested five days later and came back *seven times* higher. They're full of shit. Whatever happened is bullshit: I never got tested that many times—at least five times from when I got to Vegas, before the fight and after.

you get in fights when you're a kid, unless you go to a private school—and I didn't go to a private school. This led me to want to do more martial arts. I was a huge Jean-Claude Van Damme fan: I'd act like him, do kicks like him, do the splits. I was a Van Damme wannabe!

But nobody supported that.



Defeating Evangelista "Cyborg" Santos in 2011.

"I haven't taken any fight as a loss in the UFC—it's hard to come back from losses. Defeat is only a state of mind, and I've never come to that state of mind."

Do you dwell on this?

What am I gonna do? As far as being suspended, I have to fight, you know what I mean? The ups and downs of life, they're going to come; I'm just kind of along for the ride. Life chose me. The upside is, I might not have to fight. A lot of these guys in the MMA and all other fighters out there will say they love to fight. I'm going to tell you all that I'm a nonviolent person—I'm *not* somebody who loves to fight. I fight because I have to. If there was any quit in me, I never would have made it this far. So it's kind of hard. It's kind of a curse.

What do you mean, you "have to" fight?

I use to live in, like, some pretty slummy areas around Stockton. I was getting in fights in first and second grade with Mexican kids, Asian kids, black kids. You'd get in fights—everybody would. Out here,

My parents weren't like: "Oh yeah, he loves Van Damme." Nobody really supported that, but my uncle did aikido, so it was easy for them to sign me up. Anything they could do to get rid of me for a little while, you know?

When did you start training seriously?

I started really training and fighting at 15 or 16. I stopped going to high school my sophomore year. I wasn't making good attendance. I had a really attractive girlfriend, a cheerleader, and she had a boyfriend before I got to high school. I got into fights with him and the whole football team. I wanted to play football, but that wasn't going to work out. I was a pretty good swimmer, but I didn't want to swim in high school because I didn't think it was very cool. So my social life was all screwed around. I didn't have a good base, like friends or a

squad or anything like that. I went to three or four different grammar schools—see, my parents moved around Stockton and Lodi. I had a lot of anxiety about jumping into another classroom. They were always putting me in special ed. But I was smart; I wasn't like these kids in the special-ed classes. But it would make me feel a little bit stupid. Then I'd go back into the smart-kids class the rest of the day, and they're like: "Hey, you know you're in the retarded class?"

So I'd be behind. Then they'd try to put me on drugs. I had a lot of energy—hyperactivity. But if my energy had been used, I could have excelled. I would have progressed. Nobody ever found me something to do for the day. So I was always just wound up, running around breaking shit. I was pretty destructive.

Did fighting give you a sense of worth?

Oh, yeah, I got that right away. I always thought it's what mattered. It always had something to do with the girls, the women—even in first grade, I was getting into fights over them. I had a hard time being impressive any other way.

When did you start thinking about becoming a professional fighter?

I found out that this stuff was right in my backyard. I'd rent tapes from the special-interest section at Blockbuster video—Pride FC tapes. I'd watch [UFC Hall of Famer] Royce Gracie's fights in the UFC. I found out that [UFC Hall of Famer] Ken Shamrock was from around here. I was lifting and getting strong, but I wanted to start training. A friend of mine's brother was training at the Lion's Den—it's a fight school. So I just joined and started learning jujitsu. I did two or three days a week there. It was a fitness gym,

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too, so I had everything.

I started full-time training and I was really focused, and I found that it was easy for me. I didn't have a job yet. I didn't go to school anymore. I just decided that I was going to train harder than guys who were training to fight.

What do you bring to this sport that nobody else does?

I keep it real, that's for sure. A lot of fighters have problems and issues, but they should just tune it out the way I do. I've had all these fights; I don't dabble in other stuff—I don't have any interest. Training is more important for me, enhancing my sense of security—because at the end of the day, I've got a fight coming in a couple months. It's always been that way. Now, 14, 15 years later, you realize that there's more to life. I started to come to some understanding about who I am and where I come from—and the demographic that I'm reaching out to.

You've gained a reputation as someone who's surly and doesn't like the media. Is that true?

It's hard being a fighter. I feel bad for anybody who's a fighter. I'm going to convince you to *not* be a fighter before I tell you to be a fighter.

I'm judged on my character, not who I am. My character is a "hate" character. That's a fucked position to be in. But try being me a week out from a fight, against somebody who really fucking wants to fuck you up. Try that position—you will piss yourself. You will fucking cry yourself to sleep. You won't last a day in my

"If I'm at home and I'm training—doing my same things every day—then I'm definitely going to want to use cannabis."

shoes. I know what I'm going to do to you—and I know what my opponent's capable of doing to *me*.

What's it like physically after a fight?

Depends on what happened. I could walk out there and win in the first—I actually get beat up more when I win than when I lose. The last couple of fights that I lost, I didn't have anything wrong with me. I was doing fine.

Following your suspension, the cannabis community has shown you great support. How do you feel about that?

I'm hardly anything compared to Michael Phelps, the greatest Olympic champion of all time.

But he didn't get suspended.

He lost a lot of sponsors. But losing money doesn't even cross my mind. I had so much money rolling in—I'd just fought like five times in a row for over 500 grand. I fought a couple times for over \$1 million. The last thing I think about is money.

How do you feel about becoming a prominent figure in the cannabis movement? There's an actual petition that was submitted to President Obama.

It's really nice of the guy who started it.

Ronda Rousey spoke out for you, too.

That was nice of her that she did that. I know her pretty well—I mean, she was living at my house for a while. We trained together, so we're pretty good friends.

Then ESPN commentator Stephen A. Smith went after her.

Yeah. I guess he was basically saying you shouldn't stick up for your friends. He was calling pot a "gateway drug" and all that shit—trying to keep that stigma strong.

Tell us about your cannabis use.

If I'm at home and I'm training—doing my same things every day—then I'm definitely going to want to use cannabis. It's gonna help. I'm trying to stay focused on what I'm doing. I don't want a whole lot of things going on—people to call back, or text messages or whatever. I chill out, relax a little bit, and then I don't have those issues. If I'm going to train all day, when I get done, I'm gonna want to smoke. If I have to go and train all day, before I go, I'm gonna want to smoke. If I wake up in the morning and feel beat to shit, and it's going to take me forever to wake up, I smoke some weed and I wake right up. Then I have breakfast and I go do a workout.

What makes a great fighter?

I think that you just have to have that sort of mentality—I really don't have the words to describe it. If I ever did go back to school, *that* would be the main thing, just so I could get something across like

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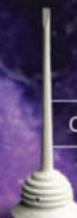
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For me, I look at it like I'm friggin' cursed. I don't look at this as a good thing; I look at it as: "It is what it is." It's not a bad thing, but it's not a great thing. It's what it is—it's how it's always been.

When I was a kid, I knew I was going to be something weird. I don't know how—I just did. I was 15 when I got into this. Who knows what I would have been? Maybe do some sort of construction work. So many of my friends got into dope gangs. But I couldn't see myself getting into the dope game—I don't like being on drugs. I don't like meth, which is the thing nowadays. I eat organic food—vegetarian for the most part. I don't like anything chemical, anything made chemically. I don't like synthetic drugs. And I try to stay away from the doctor if I can.

You've said that you have fundamental problems with the UFC's fight rules.

The easiest way to put it is, I like the Pride FC—they had it right the first time. You hear about guys bringing that show back, bringing that model back. They need to do it. But you have all these intellectuals out there, all these people out there that went to school for something. And I'm like: Can somebody please understand these things that I've already been in tune with for the longest time now? Write a freakin' book or do something that you went to school for! They're so far out of tune.

Fans are getting smarter, and they're starting to hear me—that I'm not ignorant in what I'm saying. Anybody who's not on the same page with me is actually uneducated on what MMA is: It's mixed martial arts. We should be promoting MMA, but we're shutting that down. Instead, we see the "grab-and-go" guy—grab, hold on, or run away—and that wins you the fight.

In Pride FC, they'd yellow-card you if you moved away, if you'd go on top and stall and not advance position. It's not okay to stay there; they're going to stand you up. You have to advance position, or be working to advance position, or they stand you up. There's no elbows—you can't hold the guy tight and do little elbows to make it look like you're doing something. You have to create a certain amount of space to punch down on your guy, and that might be the same space that the guy on the bottom is trying to make so he can get back up. With this, we see a whole bunch of action—we get to see mixed martial arts, and the best guy wins. So you can't run around in a circle; I'll cut you off in the corner, like boxing. That's how it should be.

What works to win in the UFC is to fucking hold on or to run away. But if you wanna come forward and try to finish the fight, that doesn't work. It's not based on punches landed or damage, either. I don't know how they score it. How do I not know? If anybody knows, it *should* be me.

Do you think about life after fighting?

I'm not very optimistic. I stick to the game plan—if I'm gonna have a fight, it's definitely gonna enhance my sense of security. So I don't want to switch things up.

If I were to stop right now, I'm not very optimistic that everything's gonna just be great. I could teach, open another gym or something like that. I'd be happier with that than going out there and losing miserably, like I've seen guys do—like all of them do. It's kind of a curse. You can't really get out: There's always gonna be a bigger payday. But the second that I'm not getting paid more money than I got paid in my last fight, I'm done. I mean, I quit. ✱



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Keeping It Real by Keeping It Small

A trusted name in seeds for decades, Dr. Greenthumb produces some of the best beans in the world for a connoisseur class of consumers. *By Mike DiPaola*



“The quality of seeds is getting worse and worse,” insists a guy who would know: the one and only Dr. Greenthumb. His family business, Dr. Greenthumb Seeds, has been producing some of the world’s finest cannabis seeds for decades.

Today, the doctor is somewhat distressed at the state of seed production. The problem, as he sees it, is that so many of the neophyte breeders jumping into the game aren’t taking the time and effort required to produce the good, authentic stuff. “Jesus, Mary and Joseph,” he groans, “they’re putting junk out there and reducing the quality of seeds worldwide with bogus genetics.”

Known only by his *nom de graine* (and no relation to B-Real’s Dr. GreenThumb brand), the legendary Ottawa seed-banker sells his primo beans to North America, Europe and beyond. Recent forays into South America have Dr. Greenthumb mulling whether to create a Spanish-language version of his website—which, by the way, looks like it hasn’t changed much in a couple of decades.

Like many a contemporary ganja-preneur, the doctor had his scrapes with the law back in the day. “I had a possession charge back in 1972,” he says. “I got busted with a joint. It wasn’t serious, in my mind.” But US immigration officials deemed it serious enough to condemn Dr. Greenthumb’s “moral turpitude,” which to this day bars him from entering the bully to the south. “If I was an ax murderer or a pedophile and did my time,” he says mordantly, “I’d be allowed in the United States.”

Dr. Greenthumb boasts some educational background in plant science, but his expertise is more the result of many years of experience and a passion for horticulture that dates back to his childhood days working in his grandma’s garden. “I look at a plant and I almost know how it’s feeling,” he says. “I have an affinity for this kind of thing.”

Some may find Dr. Greenthumb’s seeds a tad pricy, with high-end strains like feminized Bubba Kush and UK Cheese

Behold Carnage,
a new release
from the doctor.



“I look at a plant and I almost know how it’s feeling. I have an affinity for this kind of thing.”

going for \$200 for a pack of five. But the doctor maintains that you get what you pay for: “The really expensive seed is the one you’ve spent four months growing, but it turns out to be something other than what you thought you were getting.”

Meanwhile, his own customers always get high-quality, lovingly crafted seeds for the strains as advertised. The doc also declares that he’s never sold a feminized seed that produced a hermaphroditic plant, and he makes another claim that

will be received like a thrown gauntlet: “I’m pretty sure we’re the only people in the world who sell a real Bubba Kush.”

Dr. Greenthumb’s latest creation is a strain he calls Carnage. Coming very soon will be the boutique company’s commemorative 20th-anniversary strain, Turkish Delight. “It is really exceptional,” Dr. Greenthumb avows of the latter. “I have to say it’s the most tasty, crusty, juicy...” Then he trails off, leaving his reverie unfinished but completely understood. ✱

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-High Times, September 2015



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Send your cannabis cultivation questions to [@deardanko](https://twitter.com/deardanko) or deardanko@hightimes.com.

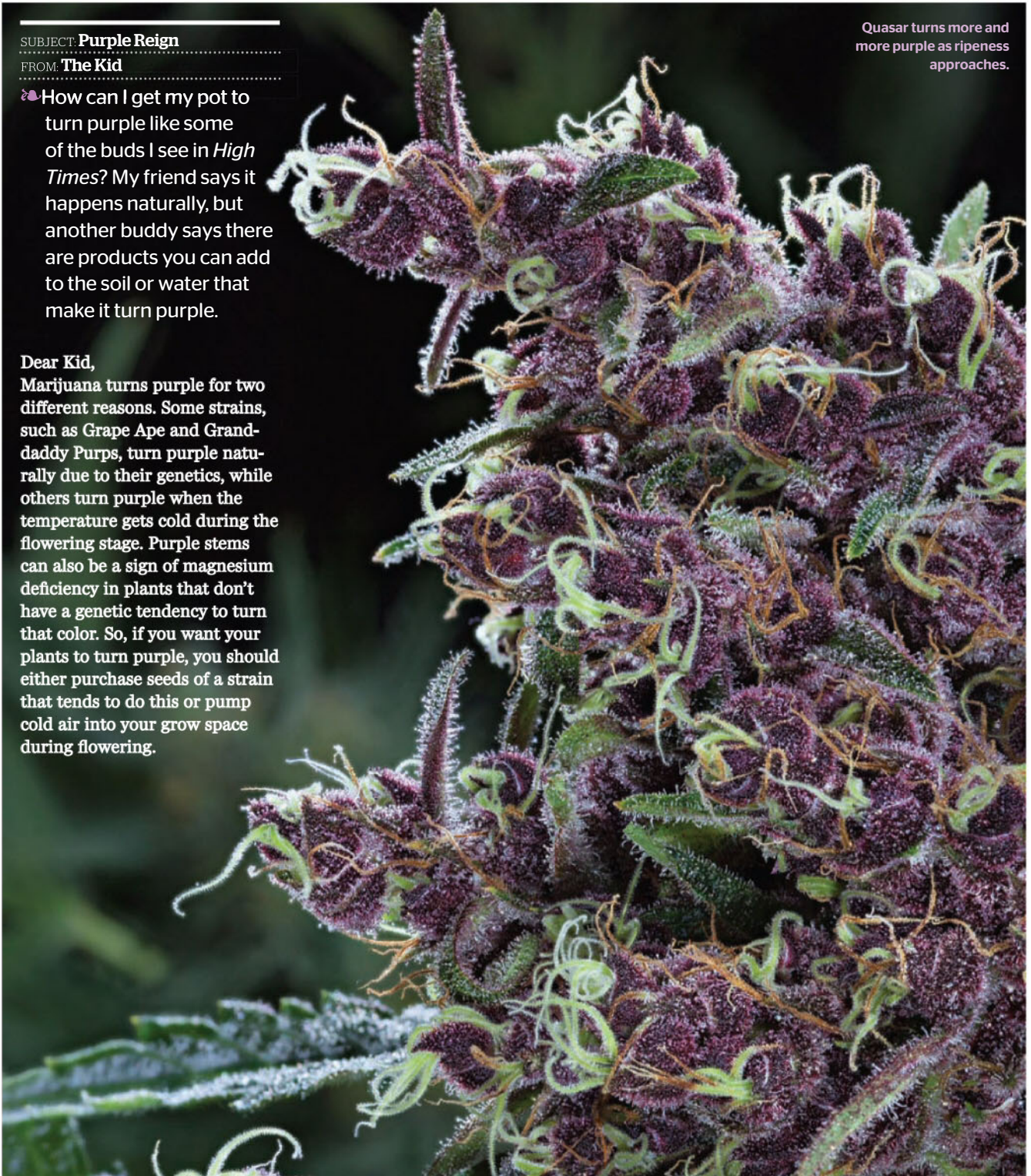
SUBJECT: **Purple Reign**

FROM: **The Kid**

🌿 How can I get my pot to turn purple like some of the buds I see in *High Times*? My friend says it happens naturally, but another buddy says there are products you can add to the soil or water that make it turn purple.

Dear Kid,
Marijuana turns purple for two different reasons. Some strains, such as Grape Ape and Granddaddy Purps, turn purple naturally due to their genetics, while others turn purple when the temperature gets cold during the flowering stage. Purple stems can also be a sign of magnesium deficiency in plants that don't have a genetic tendency to turn that color. So, if you want your plants to turn purple, you should either purchase seeds of a strain that tends to do this or pump cold air into your grow space during flowering.

Quasar turns more and more purple as ripeness approaches.



Danko Tip: There's no reason to purchase products for flushing plants. Instead, flush them using plain, pH-balanced water for the last two weeks of flowering.

SUBJECT: **Greenhouse Drying?**

FROM: **Willie**

🌱 I'm growing my first crop in a greenhouse. Can I also hang the plants to dry and cure there? I don't have a ton of extra space, and so I was wondering if this was an acceptable practice, or if I should try to find an alternate space in which to dry and cure them?

Dear Willie,

I would not recommend drying and curing inside your greenhouse. Light and heat both degrade THC, and greenhouses tend to have both in large amounts. Instead, find a cool, dark place to dry your crop and then, when the stems snap instead of bending, begin the curing process. Seal the buds inside glass jars, which should also be kept in a cool, dark place, and open them to release built-up moisture as necessary. This could be required several times a day at first, so stay vigilant and don't allow moisture to remain in the jars for long, because otherwise your buds will develop mold.

If you follow these steps faithfully, you'll find this drying and curing process to be much better than what you would achieve by doing it inside your greenhouse.



Always dry cannabis in a cool dark place with decent air circulation.

SUBJECT: **Micro-Grow**

FROM: **Liv2Gro**

🌱 Love your work on not only improving people's growing but making sure everyone can grow, no matter what their space, money or experience level!

Because of your influence, two years ago my fiancé and I decided to stop dealing with the underground cannabis market (since we live in a place where ignorance still reigns supreme) and grow our own. We have a micro-grow that consists of a 16" x 16" tent, a 300-watt full-spectrum LED with 5-watt diodes and a 4-inch fan/filter, and we're using the full FoxFarm nutrients with Ocean Forest potting soil in grow bags. We've had two harvests already, but we know we can do better with your help. My question is: What can we do to maximize our ladies' potential and keep them healthy in a micro-grow?

Many, many thanks to you and everyone at *High Times* for all the work you've done for our culture!

Dear Liv2Gro,

Thank you so much for the kind words; it feels good to know that our words have inspired you and your fiancé to grow your own. Nothing feels better than puffing on nuggets that you produced yourself, knowing everything that went into making them the best.

As for your micro-grow, the most important thing is to keep the heat from building up in such a small space. To that end, it's good that you're using LED lighting, as it creates little heat. Be sure to have an exhaust fan blowing out the warm, spent air from the top of your tent and a circulating fan to move the air around inside the tent.

The other important thing is to keep plants short and stocky and use some sort of trellising system in order to avoid having the branches grow too close to the light source. You can either pinch the growing shoots in order to create a smaller and more branchy plant, or train the branches with string or weights to spread them out.

SUBJECT: **It's All Yellow**

FROM: **AK**

🌱 My plants over the last few runs have slightly yellowed leaves, even though I seem to have my pH at the correct level, around 6 to 6.5. Is this a problem and, if so, how can I fix it?

Dear AK,

It sounds like your plants are suffering from a nitrogen deficiency. If the pH were over or under the recommended level, I'd suggest that you might need to fix that imbalance first—but since your pH is within the proper parameters, all signs point to a lack of N.

You can provide your plants with a nitrogen boost in a number of ways. If you're using bottled nutrients, add a healthy dose from the bottle labeled "Grow" or "Vegetative" with a high first number in the NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) rating. Otherwise, you can use organic additives such as liquid seaweed, liquid fish or seabird guano.



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Danko Tip: Decarboxylate your buds in an oven at 240°F for an hour before using them to make edibles.

You should see your plants green up within a few days to a week after application.



Outdoor plants perform best in full sun as long as they are provided with plenty of water.

SUBJECT: **Outdoor Plant**

FROM **Rebecca**

I was given my first plant this spring—a clone of “something.” Supposed to be guaranteed. Anyway, I live in the Denver area, and we’ve had so much rain and so many rough storms this spring that I couldn’t plant it outdoors until end of May or so. It’s about 5 feet high and very nice and round with a thick middle, and all the stems and leaves are lush and thick. It’s not a stringy plant and it doesn’t appear to have any bug damage, and all the leaves are a nice green. No buds yet. When should I expect them?

My plant gets six to seven hours of sun per day in an area sheltered from wind. When, where and how do I begin pruning? Also, there are lots of big fishing-size worms in the dirt it’s in. I have good natural soil but added some compost and mulch a couple weeks ago. I fertilized it only once, about a month ago, with Happy Frog. Is there anything I should use for encouraging the buds? If so, what, and when do I apply it?

Lastly, when should I harvest the plant this year in this part of the country? I’m in Zone 5.

As an aside, it’s an organic plant, I pull my weeds, and I don’t use bad chemicals. Are there any plants that grow well with or are beneficial if grown next to marijuana, whether flowers, herbs, shrubs or veggies? There are a few small salvia and yarrow near it.

Dear Rebecca,

It sounds like you have a nice, well-growing plant on your hands. You should start seeing buds forming around August. If that hasn’t happened, then you may have an issue with light getting to the plant at night. Make sure there aren’t any light leaks coming from your house or perhaps a streetlight that could interrupt the dark cycle. Any such interruption will prevent your plant from flowering and keep it in the vegetative stage.

Also, six to seven hours of sun is less than ideal during the vegetative stage, so any way that you can increase the amount of sun or light it receives (such as with supplemental lighting) would be helpful until the flowering stage begins. You can encourage flowering by adding nutrients higher in phosphorus

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Danko Tip: Harvest your plants during the dark cycle to preserve terpenes and other essential oils at their optimum levels.

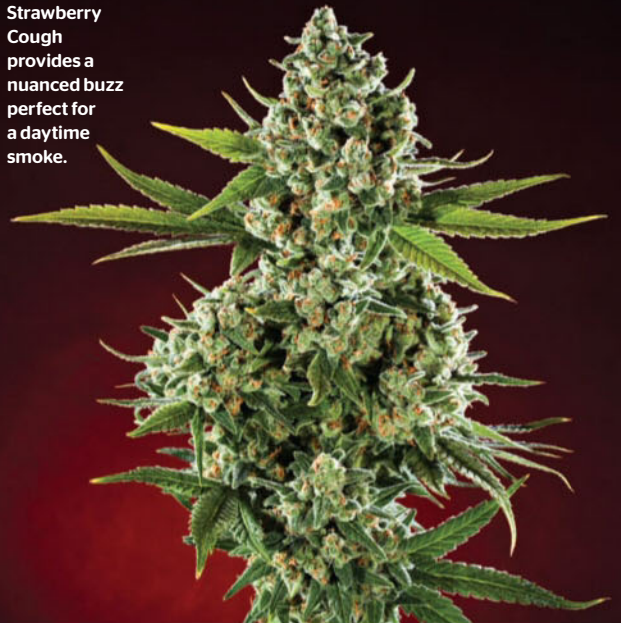
and potassium, such as bat guano.

It's hard to predict when you'll need to harvest without knowing the strain you're growing, but you should certainly take your plant down before any frosts can affect it. Most plants in your zone should be harvested in late September to early October, but longer-flowering sativas may need a few weeks more.

Several plant species work well as companions to marijuana, and it's wise to grow them nearby. Chrysanthemums discourage and repel pests. Coriander is great for keeping away aphids and spider mites. Marigolds will help prevent whiteflies, peppermint deters aphid populations, and dill discourages spider mites.

On the other hand, nasturtiums and beanstalks attract pests and can be used as a "canary in the coalmine" to discover infestations before they've made a significant amount of headway on your plants.

Strawberry Cough provides a nuanced buzz perfect for a daytime smoke.



SUBJECT: **Mild Strains**

FROM **Peg From Frogcreek**

🌱 I'm looking for some info, please. I would like to grow my own pot, but I want a specific type of plant (seed). I need something for depression, something that will give me a bit of a lift yet still be something mild. I'll be growing this outside in northern Wisconsin. The summers can be very warm—at least that's what they've been for the last couple of years. Can you recommend something for me that might work?

Dear Peg,

If you're looking for something for depression that is also somewhat mild, I would suggest a *sativa*-dominant strain such as Super Silver Haze, Strawberry Cough or Blue Dream. Try one of those or something similar (if "Haze" is in the name, that's a good sign it's a *sativa* or *sativa*-dominant), and find the one that works best for you. Then get some seeds or clones of that variety and grow out a mother plant. That way, you'll never have to go without the strain that brings you relief. 🌿



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Edibles



Get healthy
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leaves!



Juicing Cannabis for Health

Receive medical benefits from THCa without the high

—By Elise McDonough—

Wake up to the incredible health benefits of non-psychoactive cannabis in its raw form. Juicing raw cannabis leaves and fresh buds along with other fruits and vegetables will add balance to your lifestyle, protect against diseases and supplement your diet with essential cannabinoid acids. You won't feel mood-altering effects, making it appropriate for daytime use, or for patients who don't desire inebriation.

In order to have a psychedelic effect from eating cannabis-infused foods, you must first decarboxylate the cannabinoids by heating or drying the plant material. Fresh, live cannabis plants won't get you high, because the THC is still in its acidic

form. Known as THCa, this cannabinoid has anti-spasmodic and anti-inflammatory benefits, and is best used much like a vitamin. Frequent ingestion can be useful in treating conditions such as ALS, autism, fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and neuropathic pain.

Popularized in Northern California around 2010 by Dr. William Courtney, raw cannabis juicing has been credited with extraordinary healing abilities. Personal testimonies abound, but Kristen Peskuski's story is one of the most compelling. Plagued by ill health her entire life, Kristen suffered from systemic lupus, chronic fatigue syndrome, endometriosis, and

interstitial cystitis, leading to a series of painful medical procedures. At one point, her regimen of pharmaceutical drugs left Kristen practically comatose, and after failing to wake for 38 hours, her friends carried her to a hospital.

Peskuski noticed feeling relief after using cannabis, and was determined to learn more about it. Research led Kristen to believe that the root of her health problems could be endogenous cannabinoid deficiency syndrome, a speculative disorder that Dr. Ethan Russo believes could be related to migraine, fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome and related conditions.

If naturally deficient cannabinoid levels could be the underlying cause of the many conditions alleviated by medical marijuana, using cannabis as a dietary supplement should boost the body's endocannabinoid system and restore homeostasis. Getting the quantity of cannabinoids necessary to restore health means pursuing non-psychoactive options, since consuming psychoactive THC constantly can make it difficult to get off the couch! Under Dr. Courtney's care, Kristen began juicing cannabis every day, and was eventually able to heal herself and resume a normal life. She was even able to successfully become pregnant and give birth to a healthy daughter, even after countless doctors had said that her endometriosis would make motherhood impossible. ✨

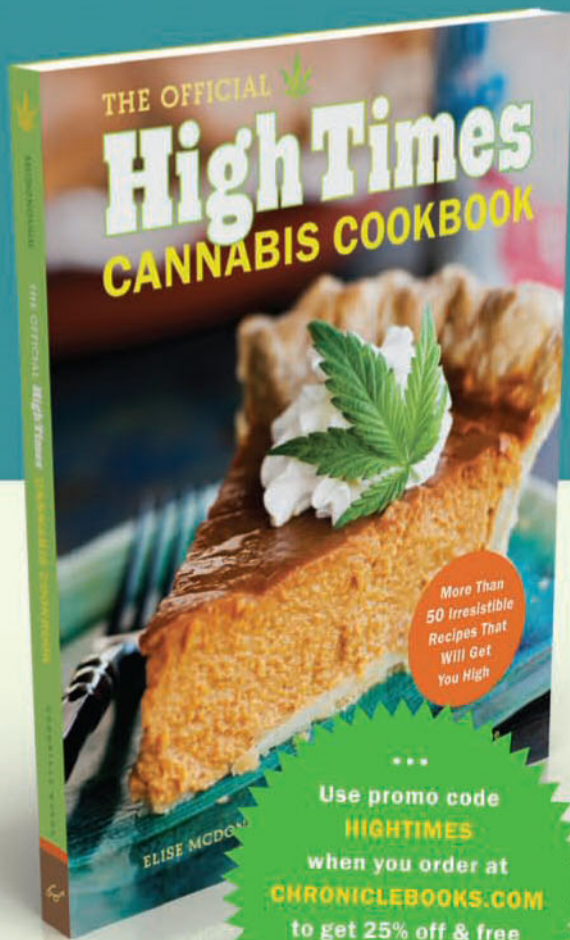
HEALTHY CANNABIS JUICE

Ingredients:

3 lbs cannabis leaves (can use kale or chard also)
4 apples, quartered
4 golden beets, quartered (red beets stain)
3 stalks of celery, quartered
½ cucumber, quartered lengthwise
2 lemons, quartered lengthwise
1 piece of ginger as big as your thumb

Roughly chop your veggies so they will fit easily down the tube of the juicer. Soak and rinse your cannabis leaves to ensure no dust or bugs are on the surface.

Turn juicer on, position a catch cup or pitcher into front of the spout, and begin to juice. Alternate clumps of cannabis leaves with apples, celery, lemons or cucumber pieces to keep the fibrous pulp moving through the machine. Skim the foam from your finished juice.



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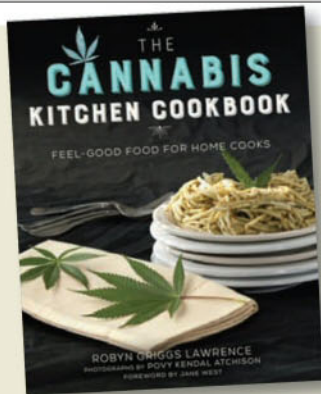
Flavor of the Month Sinsemilla Smoked Salmon

Denver bagel shop staff gets high off of fish.



Joshua Pollack at Rosenberg's Bagels in Denver created marijuana-infused smoked salmon for 4/20, and it became so popular that he's now trying to get it on the shelves of dispensaries! After making a cannabis infusion into Everclear alcohol, the team evaporated the booze, leaving a THC-laden paste to slather over the salmon, which then marinates for 72 hours before being traditionally smoked. The resulting gravlax is flavored with dill, lemon and cannabis.

A viral video created by The Smoker's Club documented the process, and catapulted Josh and general manager Nicky "the Fish" Bruno into national fame and a media circus, even drawing the ire of food safety inspectors from the Denver Department of Health. The cannabis-smoked salmon was intended for personal consumption, and none was sold out of the bagel shop, so our heroes got off with a stern warning.



Cannabis As Superfood

Professional editor Robyn Griggs Lawrence has 20 years of experience with the green lifestyle movement, boasting experience at *Natural Home*, *Mother Earth News* and *Organic Spa* magazines. Today, Robyn is watching the legal cannabis industry unfold, and documenting the rise of the celestial seasoning in the food scene with her new book *The Cannabis Kitchen Cookbook*.

Featuring recipes from 14 chefs, this cookbook is focused on integrating cannabis into a healthy lifestyle. "We want to break through the stigma," Robyn says, "and show people that it's a vegetable packed with nutrients and antioxidants." Mouthwatering recipes include appetizers like Cannabis Ceviche, entrees like Hemp Seed-Crusted Chinook Salmon with Cannabis Cream, and sides such as Smokin' Grilled Corn, Zucchini and Cilantro Salad, topped off by desserts like Super Lemon Haze Banana Rum Surprise.

They Put Pot in What Now?!

Microwave Marijuana Meals

Chef invents healthy THC-infused convenience food.



It's easy to include cannabis as an ingredient in a healthy lifestyle, since you can simply infuse the herb into your chosen fat and add it to your regular meals. But what about when you're too sick to cook?

Designed for patients who might be too ill, stressed or busy to plan, shop and cook homemade meals, marijuana-infused, nutritionally-balanced microwavable food is coming to a dispensary near you, courtesy of cook Chris Sayegh (*theherbalchef.com*). Working with a team of nutritionists, Sayegh developed four frozen options including vegetarian lasagna, stir fry, pot pie and a quinoa-stuffed chicken breast, all dosed with either THC or CBD. Recipes for the microwavable meals were formulated to consider the taste and texture of food upon reheating, as well as the retention of THC. The group even invented a patented method to raise the boiling point of this psychoactive cannabinoid to preserve as much activated THC as possible. Meals can be reheated in a microwave in 4 to 6 minutes or in the oven, and use safe, BPA-free plastic packaging materials.

FIVE HEALTHY CANNABIS EDIBLES

Cannabis-infused foods don't need to be loaded with sugar and fat! Get high and healthy with these pot snacks.



FRUIT LEATHER

Dosed with 100 milligrams of THC, these dried fruit leathers were created by Roxanne Dennant, a vegan concerned about health. Dismayed by the options on display at her local dispensary, Roxanne designed a product meant for people like her. Fruit Slabs are all-natural, cannabis-infused fruit leather, perfect for people with active lifestyles who need to medicate discreetly while on the go. fruitslabs.com



CANNABIS KOMBUCHA

Kombucha is a "living tea" created by allowing a kombucha culture to ferment brewed tea. Enthusiasts claim that the probiotic drink aids digestion, combats arthritis and prevents cancer, and it has a rich history of use in China. The Kannabucha created by Tahoe Herbal Co. is fizzy and great tasting, the delicate flavor of jasmine tea blended with a full cannabis extract for maximum healing benefits. tahoherbal.co



PINEAPPLE DELIGHT

These incredible creations from Lifted Edibles combine dried fruits and finely ground nuts with hash-infused coconut oil to tantalize your taste buds with fresh, invigorating flavors. Using only ice water hash ensures an environmentally friendly, safe and pure product, dosed at 100 milligrams of THC for one large bite. I'd recommend breaking each truffle into four pieces, starting with a dose of 25mg or less. liftededibles.com



GANJA GLAZED NUTS

Sweet and savory almonds and pecans coated with hemp seeds, maple syrup, solventless cannabis extract, cinnamon and sea salt, containing four portions of 25 milligrams of THC, or 100 mg per tin. This delicious Om Edibles product does contain sugar, but in a small amount, making these a fantastic option to sprinkle on top of a salad or bowl of oatmeal for an added hint of sweetness. omedibles.org



COCONUT MACAROONS

These simple yet scrumptious treats use maple syrup to sweeten, cocoa for an energy boost and cannabis-infused coconut oil for the euphoric bliss that results after eating one or two macaroons. These raw, vegan macaroons from Utopia Edibles pack high-quality ingredients into four small bite-size treats, each containing about 50 milligrams of THC, for 200 mg per package. @utopia_farms

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EASY

Red Velvet Cupcakes



Ingredients

- 1 package of out of the box (OTB) Red Velvet Cake Mix
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup MagicalButter or Magical Cooking Oil
- 1 container of OTB Creamy Home-Style Cream Cheese Frosting
- Red sprinkles or cake crumble

Skill level: Very easy
Prep time: 5-10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serving size: 1 cupcake
Yield: 18 cupcakes



How to

1. Preheat oven to 325°F/163°C. Place 18 paper baking cups in muffin pan(s).
2. Prepare cake mix using water, MagicalButter or Magical Cooking Oil and eggs in large bowl.
3. Beat with an electric mixer at medium speed for 2 minutes.
Spoon batter evenly into prepared pan(s).
4. Bake 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out dry.
5. Cool cupcakes completely on wire rack.
6. Spread frosting on cupcakes and garnish.

**Recipe will vary depending on brand.*

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and watch how-to videos at youtube.com/herbalbutter.

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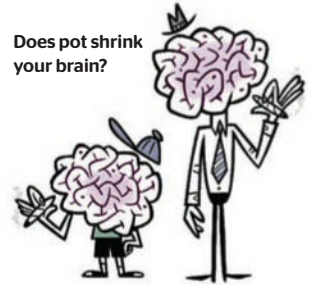
Hi Con,
CBD shows promise for lowering psychotic symptoms, and it has markedly fewer side effects than most drugs. But no single antipsychotic works for everyone: The disorder varies from person to person, and we all differ in our response to various chemicals. I'm not saying that Big Pharma doesn't have its own agenda; I'm just asking people to keep in mind that, while it's great to have CBD in the toolkit, it simply can't be an effective treatment for *everything*.

First, I hear that marijuana shrinks brains; then I hear that it doesn't. What's the word?

Hermano Cerebro

Hola Hermano,
In studies, cannabis users and non-users often differ in other important variables, especially alcohol use. The latest research did control for drinking better than previous studies and found no differences in brain structure between cannabis users and non-users. Also, large sample populations were involved, so if there really *was* a difference, it probably would have been found. So the short answer is: Don't binge-drink, since that's far more likely to hurt your brain. Adults who enjoy a drink with dinner each night are probably not causing any damage; folks

Does pot shrink your brain?



who wait until adulthood to use cannabis responsibly have nice brains, too.

What's more dangerous, grass or meat?

Free McCow

Hello Free,
It's apples and oranges: Red meat likely increases the risk of certain cancers by about 20 percent, while cannabis doesn't really increase the risk of anything lethal. Of course, the munchies *might* induce you to eat red meat, but "Regulate Marijuana Like Meat!" doesn't have the same ring to it.

What's alpha-pinene?

Smoky T. Bear

Hello Smoky,
Alpha-pinene is the terpenoid that creates the scent of pine in cannabis and other plants. It has potential as a bronchodilator, anti-inflammatory and memory aid; it also has relaxant properties in aromatherapy. So if you don't feel like vaporizing, you can always smell a few buds to chill out. 🌿

Dr. Mitch Earleywine is a professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.



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Home Remedies for Dabbing Injuries: Burns

Learn how what's at hand can help you heal.

By Craig Coffey

We hope that every *High Times* reader has a long and happy life dabbing on all of your favorite concentrates without ever experiencing the searing bite of a red-hot nail or torch. However, the unfortunate reality is that you're getting super-baked and playing around with a blowtorch. In other words: Burns happen. And many of us daily dabbers have the scars to prove it.

So what should you do when you reach across the table to grab the Xbox controller and accidentally rest your elbow on a glowing hot nail?

The first thing is to keep calm and attempt to determine the severity of your new torch tattoo. Burns come in three types or degrees. First-degree burns are the least serious: They're marked by redness and extend only to the outermost layer of skin. The affected skin may peel off after a day or two, and the burn typically heals in three to six days.

Second-degree burns extend into the skin tissue directly below the epidermis. These burns involve painful blisters and usually take two to three weeks to heal.

Third-degree burns damage all layers of skin. These types of burns can be very serious and should be treated by a medical professional. While third-degree burns are the most severe, they can also be the least painful, because they damage the nerves in the skin. The skin itself appears white or charred, and the healing is prolonged.

Your natural instinct may be to apply ice to a burn, but that's not a good idea: Ice will lower your blood flow to the area and slow down the natural healing process. Here are a few better home remedies to deal with torch and nail burns and promote rapid healing and pain relief:



TEA BAGS:

Keep a few used tea bags in a zip-lock bag in your fridge. A cool,

moist tea bag is an excellent way to relieve a burn, and the tannic acid found in most teas (especially black tea) can reduce pain significantly.



HONEY: With a pH that's inhospitable to most bacteria, honey will not only

cool the burned area, it will also prevent possible infection and promote scar-free healing.



ALOE: Probably the best-known treatment for burns, aloe will quickly stop the

pain and inflammation, as well as reduce the swelling and stimulate skin repair.



LAVENDER OIL: Make a solution of 1 teaspoon of pure lavender essential

oil in approximately 2 ounces of water and pour it into a misting bottle. Mist the burned area with this solution to speed the healing process. Lavender oil is a natural antiseptic and will help to prevent infection.



MILK: Get that burn a nice glass of milk! Soak the injured area in milk for

20 minutes for quick pain relief; the fat and protein will not only soothe the burn but also promote healing. Full-fat, whole-milk yogurt can also help cool a burn and hydrate damaged skin.

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Marijuana Media Explosion

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

In a previous **NORMLizer** column, I spotlighted the mainstream media's increasingly positive coverage of cannabis, with nearly 60 percent of Americans supporting an end to marijuana prohibition, according to Gallup's recent polls.

These days, there are dozens of glossy magazines focusing on ganja, and they're seeing increased ad sales and the need to *boost* the number of pages per issue—not, as is the case with so much of the print media, to reduce them. Online, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of websites, blogs and Facebook pages devoted to pot, on which you can find political discussion, cultivation tips, or advice for investing in marijuana-related companies and stocks.

Scores of podcasts are available covering the entire realm of marijuana-related news, culture, business, law and politics, as well as cannabis-themed TV channels and shows accessible via digital-media platforms like Roku, Chromecast, Amazon Fire and Apple TV. You can also find several pot-related reality shows on mainstream-media outlets, such as CNN's *High Profits*, which depicts ganjapreneurs hard at work in the new industry. And, as everyone knows, pro-pot documentaries are now ubiquitous. (Mandatory viewing for incoming NORML interns is *Evergreen: The Road*



to *Legalization in Washington*.)

None of this is likely to abate. In fact, you can expect even more marijuana-related media and content in the coming years, as state-licensed cannabis businesses adopt the same methods as so many other companies seeking to attract consumer attention—i.e., blitzing media outlets with information about their products and services. Until about 2012, NORML would receive only a few press releases per year from pot-related businesses. These days, we receive over 300 press releases or

itches per month from cannabis companies or their hired PR guns.

The godfather of this thriving new genre of cannabis coverage is, of course, *High Times* magazine, which continues to grow with our socio-politically changing times. In the shrinking world of print publishing, this expanding brand has a major influence over the booming cannabis industry. Recently celebrating its 40th birthday, *High Times* and its website, hightimes.com, remain prime sources for all things marijuana-related and are now regularly feted in major publications like the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Time* and *Adweek*.

None of the progress in marijuana-law reform that America has enjoyed over the past 20 years would have occurred if not for *High Times*. For decades, it was the *only* commercially available media source for cannabis-related news and information. And when the Feds tried unsuccessfully to shut it down, with the DEA targeting the magazine's advertising base in Operation Green Merchant, *High Times* never caved.

High Times and its devoted advertisers deserve great thanks and praise from the community of cannabis-law reformers for championing First Amendment rights. As we can see, the rest of the media has finally joined the party! 🌿

FREEDOM FIGHTER

A Tireless Reformer

A cancer survivor and mother leads the battle in Virginia.

Before becoming an activist, Jenn Michelle Pedini spent much of her time blogging her way through two bouts with lymphoma, chemotherapy and, finally, a life-saving stem-cell transplant. During her ordeal, Pedini developed a deep personal connection to cannabis. She also helped raise thousands of dollars for nonprofit organizations like Stand Up To Cancer and the Leukemia &

Lymphoma Society.

Pedini met NORML founder Keith Stroup, one of America's best-known drug-policy reformers, while attending the organization's annual Aspen Legal Seminar in 2012. She was inspired to share her story—and change her life.

Pedini had to carefully consider the repercussions that often accompany becoming an outspoken cannabis advocate. But she took the plunge and has since become a force for change in Virginia. Her



first goal was to reduce the stigma that surrounds cannabis-law reform in the state. Inspired by Green Flower Media, she launched the #coming-outgreen campaign, which encourages cannabis users in Virginia to tell their stories.

Pedini currently serves as the deputy director of Virginia NORML and as the director of its Richmond chapter, RVA NORML. Using social media effectively is her passion: curating content, driving traffic,

boosting engagement and supporting affiliate campaigns. Pedini is proud that Virginia NORML took top honors in the NORML Nation membership drive this past August. What continues to gall her is the extreme variation in the country's treatment of cannabis users.

"We arrest 20,000 Virginians for possession and spend \$70 million prosecuting marijuana offenses here annually," Pedini notes. "Meanwhile, millions of Americans enjoy legal cannabis [in medical and recreational states] across our nation."

By Kevin Mahmalji, NORML national outreach coordinator

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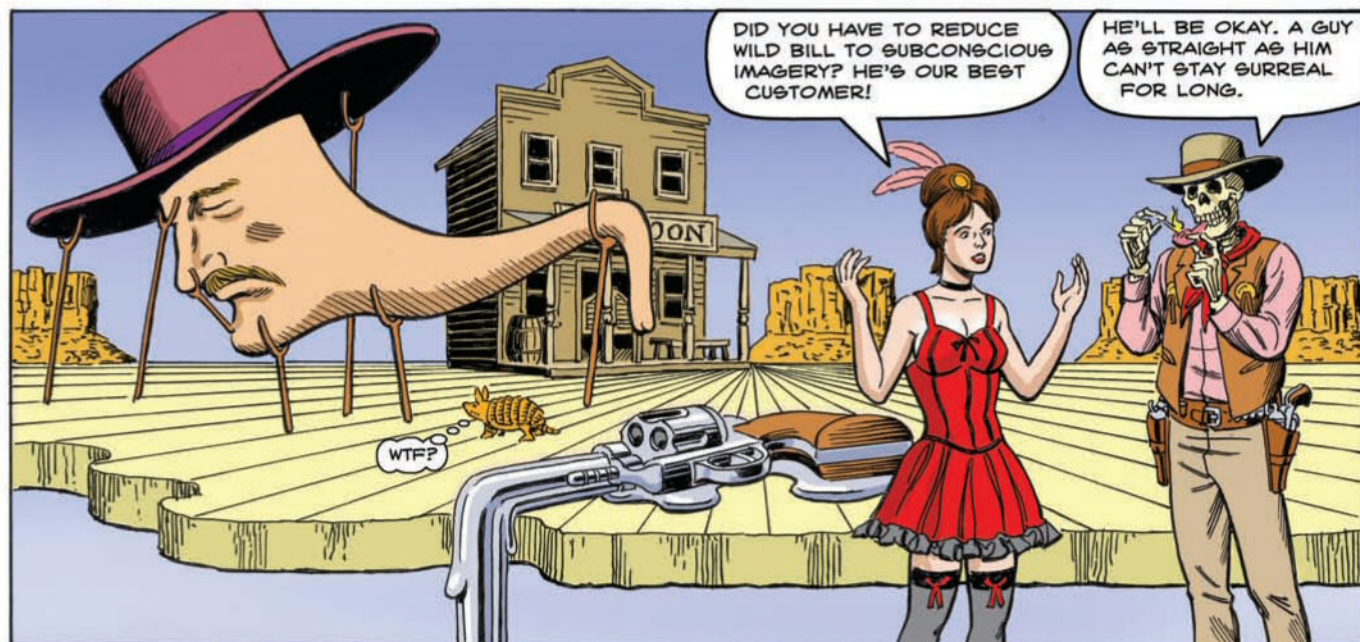
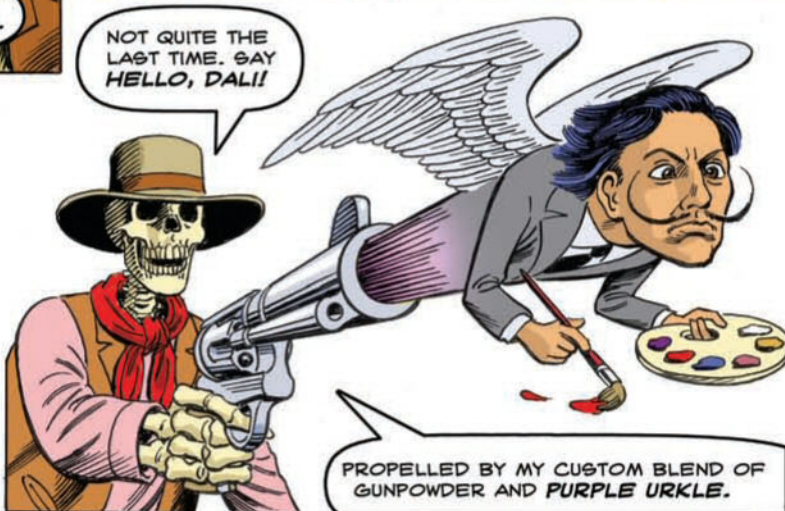
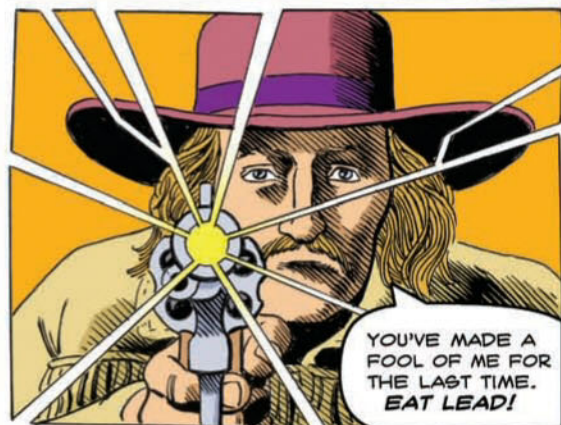
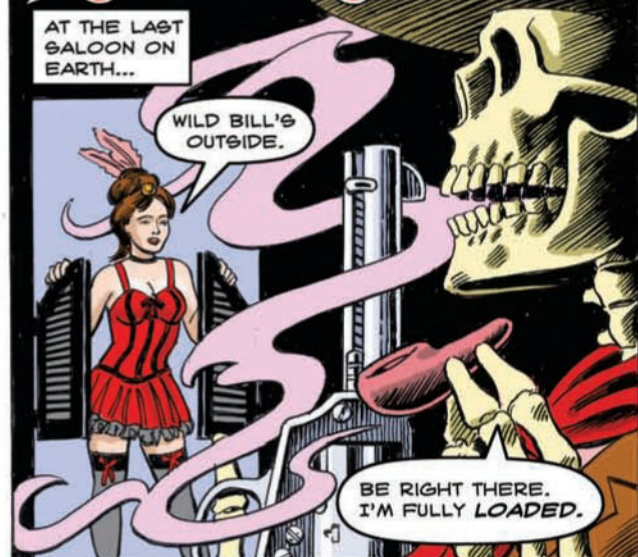
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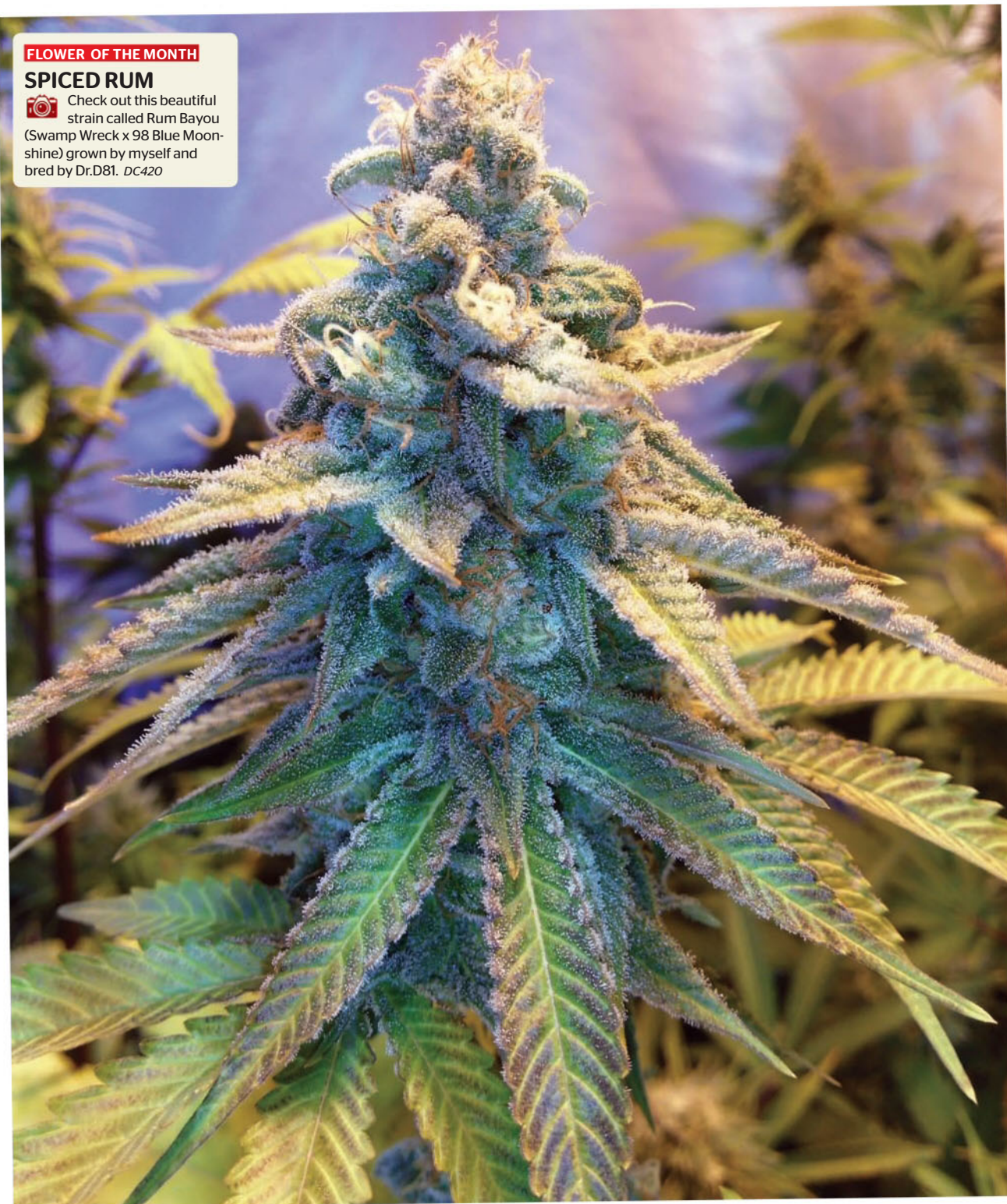
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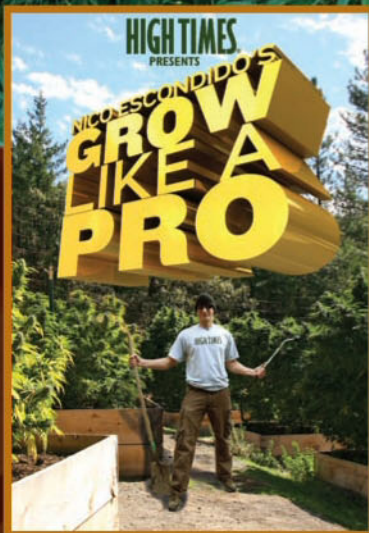
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CLOSE-UP OF THE MONTH

TRICHOME FOREST

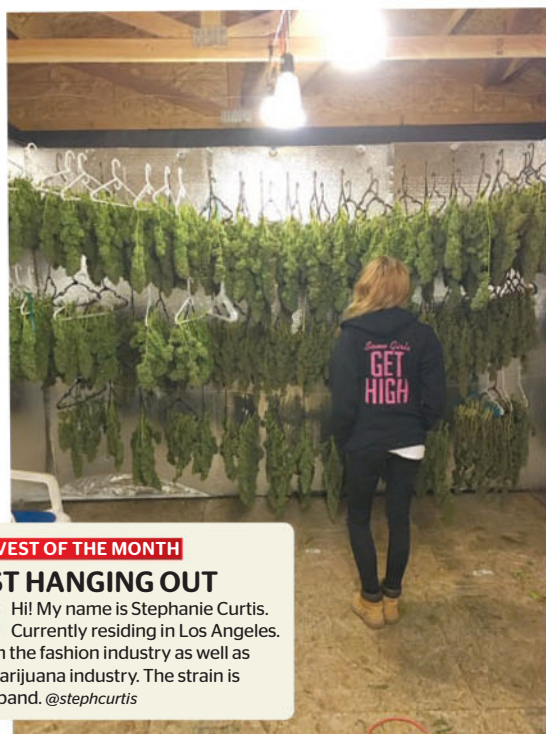
 Hello beautiful people of *High Times*! Here's a photo I took over this past Croptober season. Hope you enjoy these flowers as much as I have! @fillyoureyes



HARVEST OF THE MONTH

JUST HANGING OUT

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Jamaica played host
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► Jammin' in Jamaica!

Earlier this year, the Jamaican government finally amended the country's Dangerous Drugs Act to recognize the religious rights of Rastafarians to use ganja, and also decriminalized the possession of up to two ounces of marijuana by adults, including tourists. Naturally, *High Times* wanted to celebrate this historic occasion, so in November we sponsored the first-ever World Cannabis Cup, hosted by the Rastafari Rootzfest in Negril, where industry leaders from both countries came together to get Jamaica's new cannabis economy off the ground.

► The Future of Breeding

European cannabis correspondent Green Born Identity (GBI) reports on the latest advances in selective marijuana breeding, which allows cultivators to develop pot plants with optimized traits for medical and recreational use.

► The Discovery of Pot

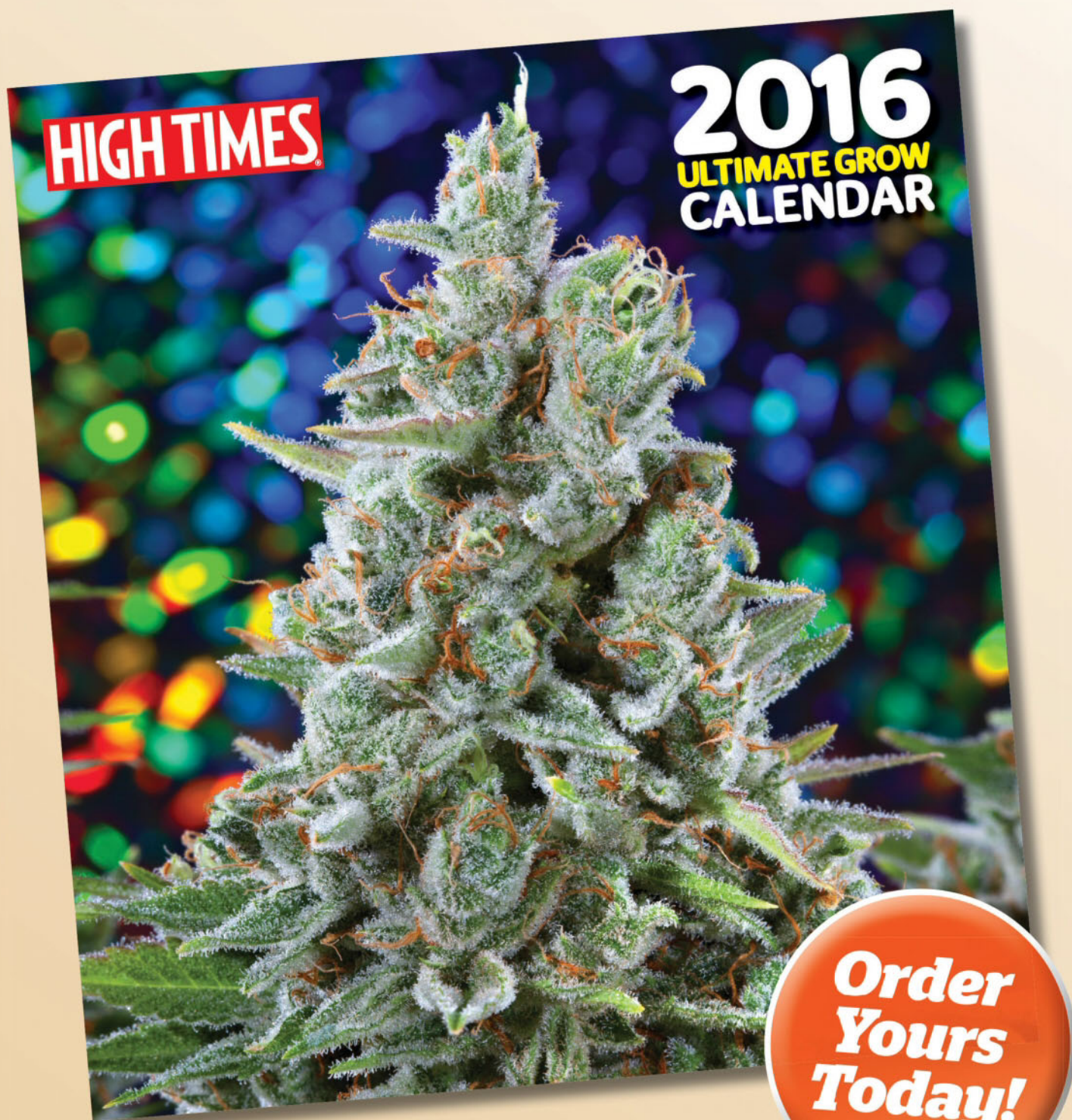
How did the earliest humans first figure out that the cannabis plant could get them high? Contributor Rick Thompson takes a paleontological look at how our ancestors embraced and advanced marijuana agriculture.

► Cannabis & Harm Reduction

The days when pot got lumped in with hard drugs, tobacco and alcohol are over. Now, medical researchers are discovering that cannabis can actually help *end* dangerous addictions. Contributor Sophie St. Thomas uncovers the new medical applications being developed for our favorite plant.

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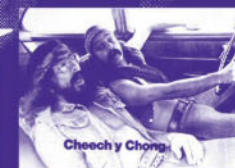
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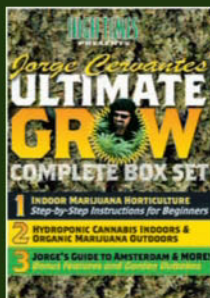


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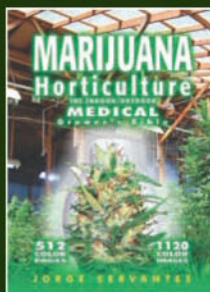


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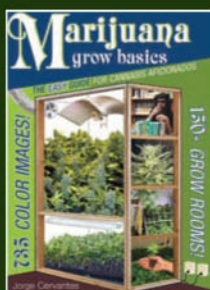
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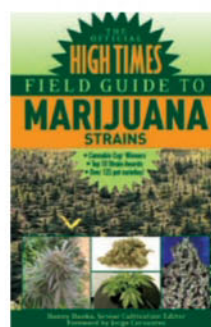


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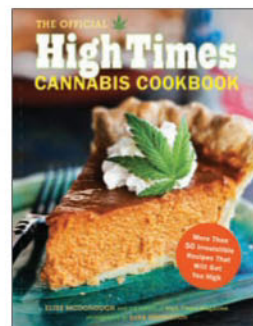
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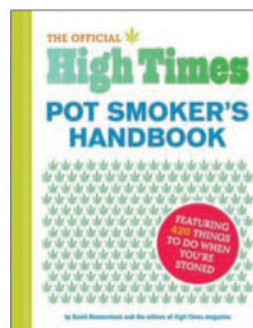
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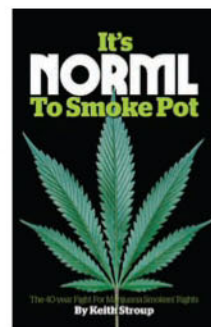
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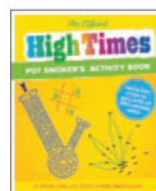
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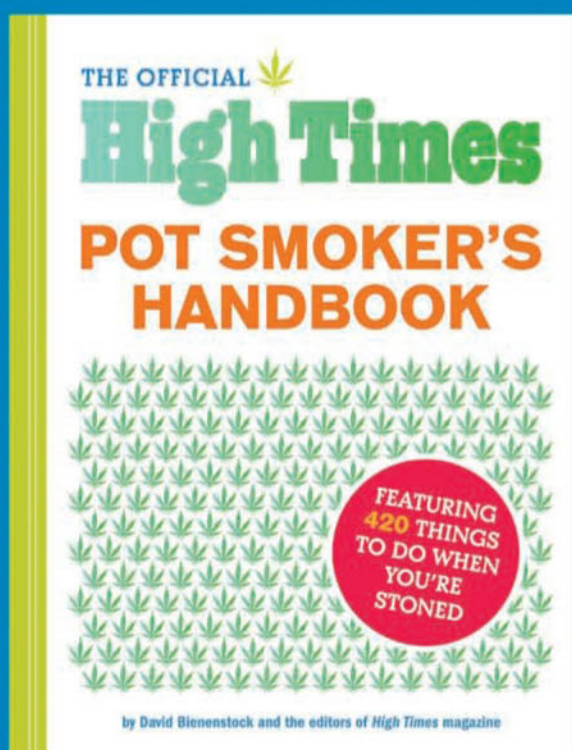
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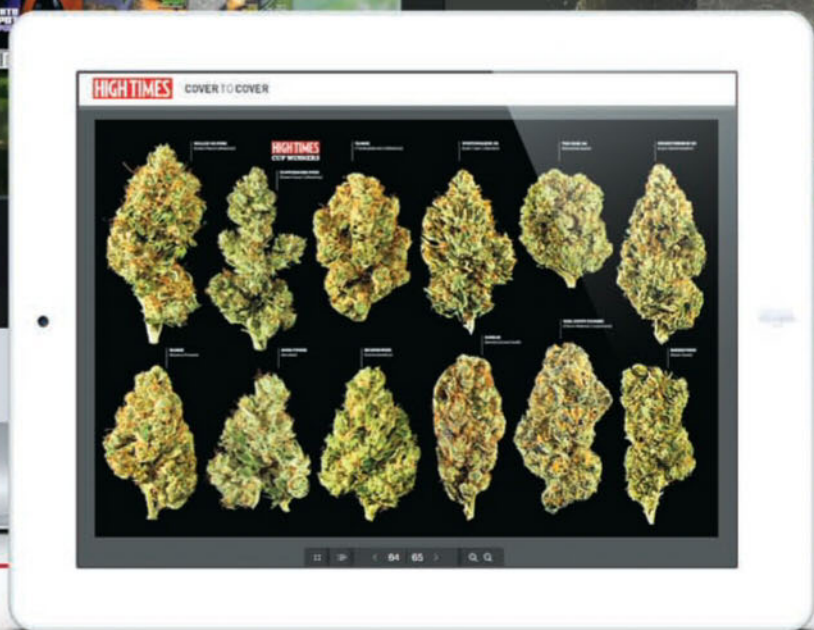
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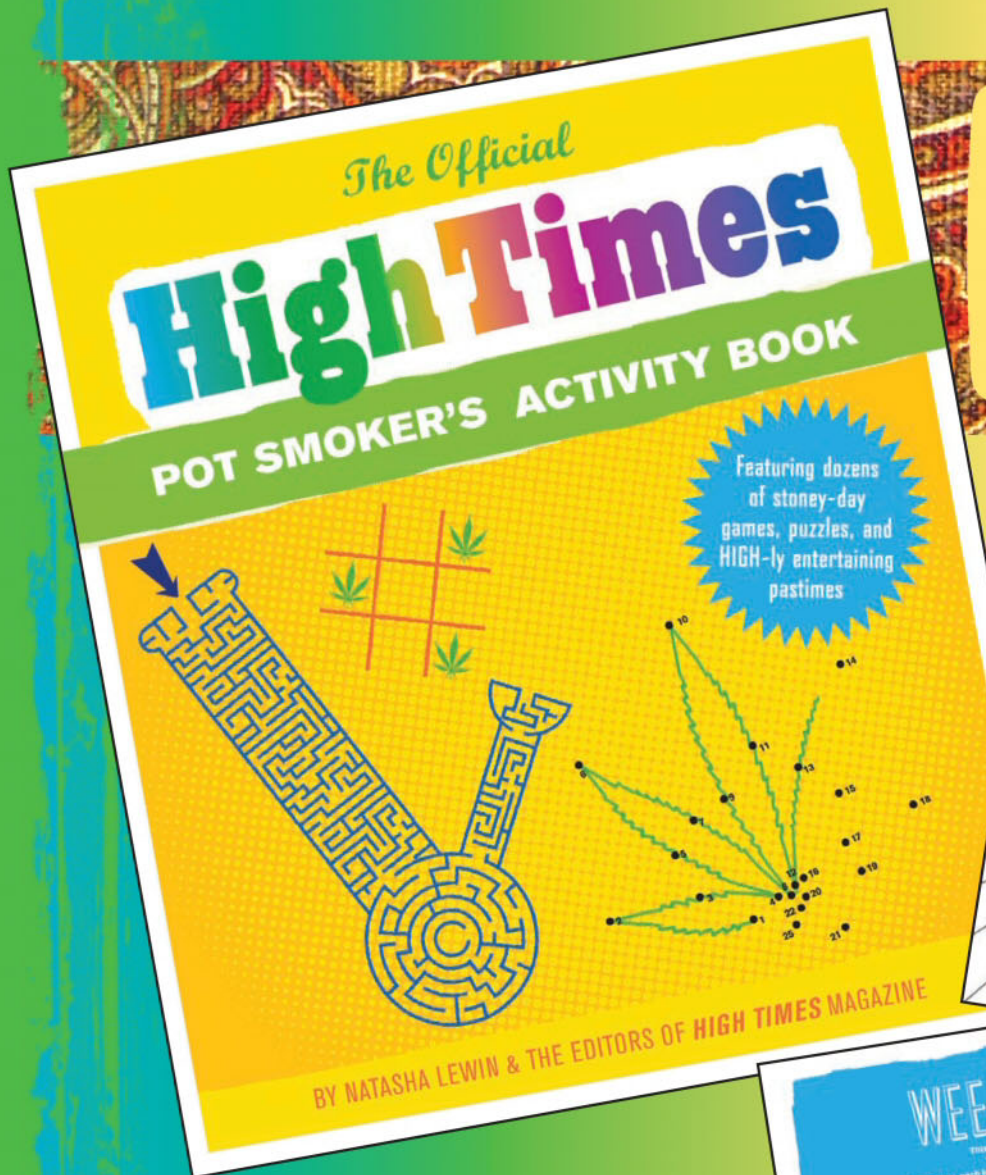
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Sour Diesel X C99 \$ 70.
Orange Haze x C99 \$ 50.

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Chemo \$ 55.
Rockstar \$ 55.
Sour Diesel \$ 60.
Double Skunk x Skunk \$ 60.
Island Sweet Skunk x Skunk \$ 80.
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Regular Afpak \$ 80.
Bubba Rock Kush \$ 80.
Bubble Gum Indica \$ 80.
Pollkat - Autoflowering \$ 80.
Bubba x Skunk \$ 80.
King x Nevils Haze 21 \$ 225.

Sour Diesel x Skunk \$ 90.
Kodiak \$ 100.

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Triple Crown Specimen



Original Haze



Tuna Kush Budder



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