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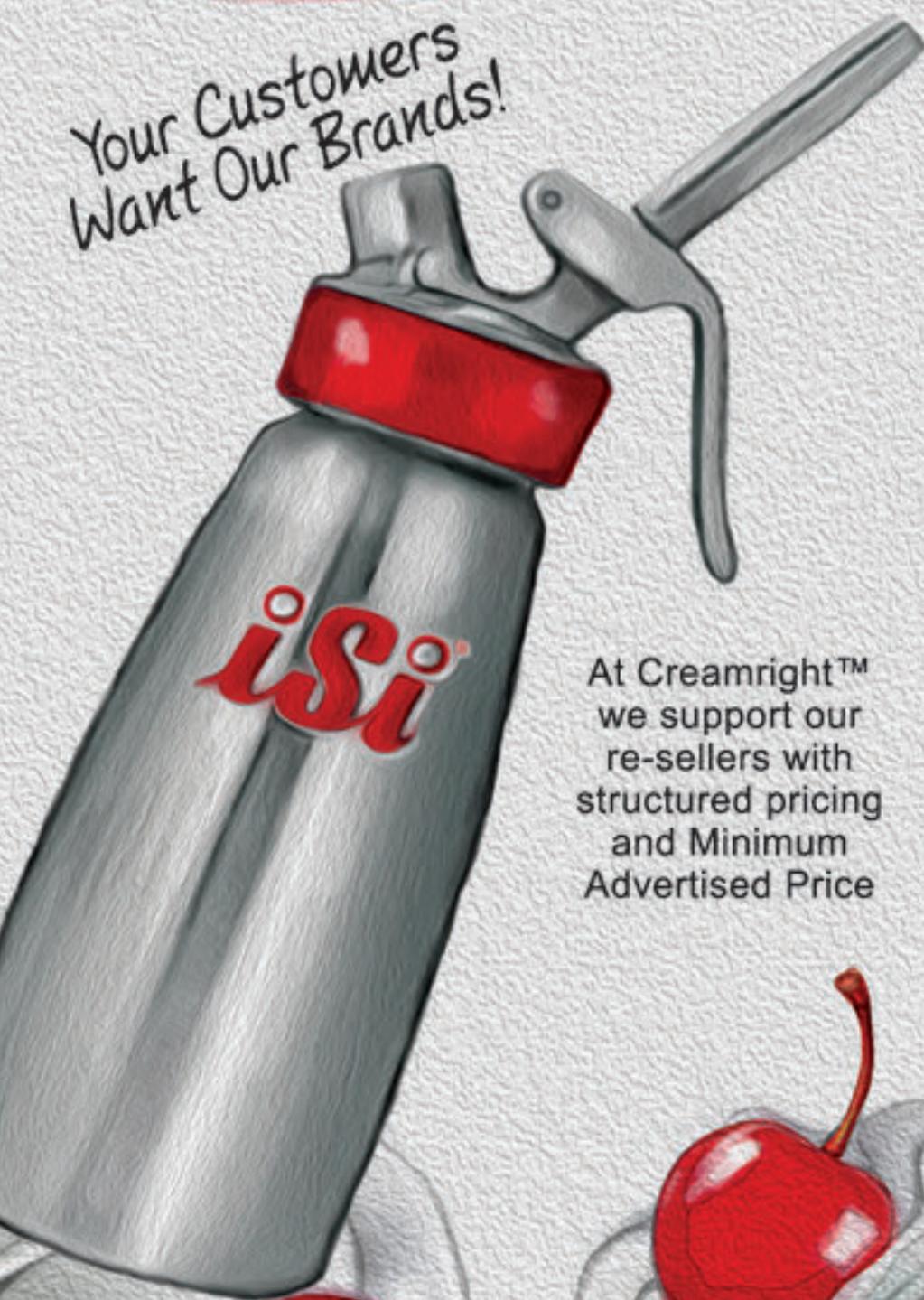
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Glass Artist Scott Baker page 60

Welcome to February 2018 HQ readers!

Are you planning on attending CHAMPS in Las Vegas this February? If you're a member of the smoke shop industry, the answer is Absolutely! For nearly two decades, the CHAMPS trade show has been the place where the latest and greatest smoke shop products are found, and where successful business relationships are formed amongst thousands of manufacturers, distributors and retail buyers. Join HQ this month in our exclusive interview with CHAMPS founder and CEO Jeff Hirschfeld on page 48.

Next, everyone should recall 'Black Monday,' February 24, 2003. A day that will live in infamy, sub-culturally speaking...familiar with the events of this tragic day? Brush up on some history with HQ's part III of "The Great Divorce".

Lastly, HQ is expanding its Social Media and overall Web presence! We will be announcing contests, games, and giveaways for wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, and retailers alike! Simply follow us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram to stay in the loop and enter to win free advertising and some amazing loot! You don't want to miss what's coming.

Cheers.

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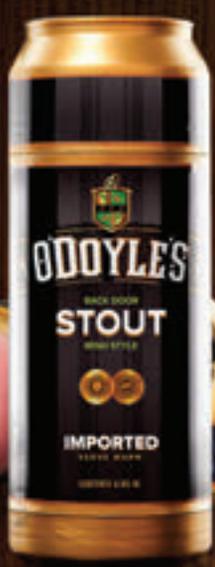




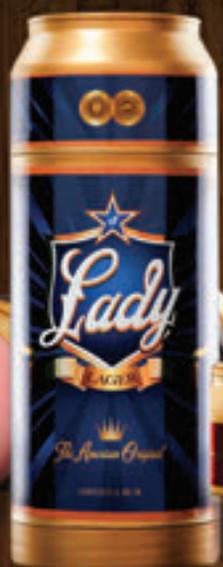
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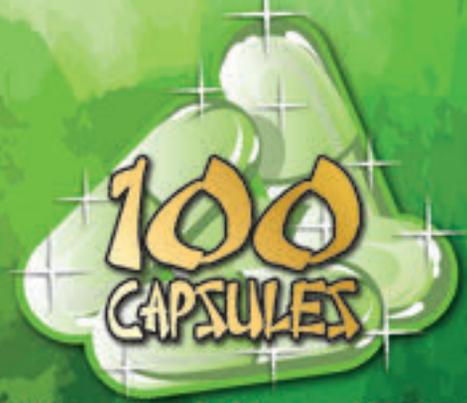
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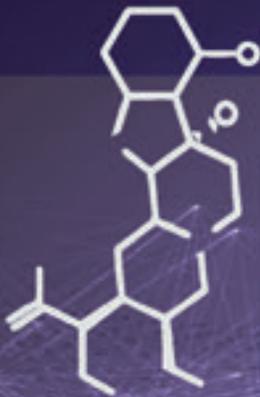


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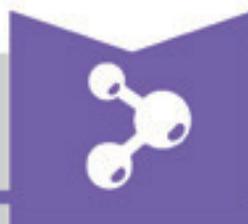
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Behind the Scenes

BY DARIN BURT



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Are you going to CHAMPS? If you're a member of the smoke shop industry, the answer is Absolutely!

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continued on page 58

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Great Divorce, Volume 3

'Black Monday,' February 24, 2003. A day that will live in infamy, sub-culturally speaking. That morning, Attorney General John Ashcroft, with U.S. Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan of the Western District of Pennsylvania by his side, held a press conference announcing the indictment of 55 individuals on charges of trafficking illegal drug paraphernalia. As they posed for the cameras, DEA-led SWAT teams, armed to the teeth, were kicking in the doors of smoke shops, homes and distribution centers around the country, making examples of businesses who dared to toe the line of social compliance. 'Operation Pipe Dreams,' they called it.

In *Degenerate Art*, Saeed Mothadi of Jerome Baker Designs poignantly recalled the experience.

"There was like, 60 guys that came through my house with machine guns . . . and SWAT gear," he said on camera. "I was like, 'Wow. All this for me?'"

He went on to recount his utter shock and disbelief as he watched the press conference from a jail cell.

"Ashcroft comes on. And he says, you know, 'Today, we took down 50 organizations that support terrorism.' And I was just like, 'What?'"

The most disturbing aspect of the operation was the treatment of comedy legend and de facto cannabis spokesperson, Tommy Chong, who took a plea deal that put him in a federal penitentiary for 9 months. The prosecutors made no bones about their motivation, openly acknowledging that their vendetta against the celebrity was retaliation for his movies' trivialization of "law enforcement efforts to combat drug trafficking and use." So much for free speech.

The actions of Ashcroft and his cronies sent shockwaves through the smoke shop world. Multiple businesses shut down by the raids and subsequent prosecutions, while dozens, if not hundreds more were shut down or scaled back by their owners out of fear of being raided.

Jason Glowacki, however, barely blinked an eye. "Keep in mind, I grew up in the industry," he says. "I was all about sticking my flag in the ground and standing there. I mean, I wasn't going to stop doing it. I wasn't going to close up shop. I had a business. I had dozens of people that worked for Glow, a lot of families that worked for Glow. We weren't going to shut our doors just because we were nervous."

In the end, though the Federal Government spent over \$12 million on the operation, they accomplished little beyond scoring points with the Administration's base. The trade survived; the show went on. CHAMPS opened their doors the very next day after the raids, albeit short a few vendors. For those forced to cancel, Jeff waived the usual fees, going so far as to mortgage his own house to secure the cash for refunds.

The next portion of our story is brought to you by John W. Huffman. His name may not mean much on first glance, but consider the initials: JWH. Ring a bell? The work Huffman did at Clemson University starting all the way back in 1984 would have massive implications in our market and eventually, the world, starting in the early 2000s but becoming most pronounced at the beginning of the current decade. We're talking, of course, about herbal incense, AKA, K2, spice, etc., the catalyst for the ill-fated designer drug craze. It brought millions, but not without a price.

"The whole thing was a double-edge sword," Jason surmises. "I think it created a false sense of our industry's money-making ability. It really distracted a lot from the real growth of our industry . . . there was very little product development . . . It was just rifle through as much spice as you can."

He continues, "It created competition for old head shops where they should never have had that competition. You know, these guys just sprouted . . . and now that stuff is gone, a lot of these guys are really battling for their market share, which wouldn't have happened without spice. I also think that the spice era is a complete manipulation by the federal government and drug enforcement agencies all over the world. They'd run out of drugs to enforce against, so they created new ones."

That may sound like conspiracy theory paranoia, but there's at least some truth to it. One of Huffman's primary sources of funding was the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Read between the lines to find the irony.

Speaking in broad strokes, this brings us to where we are now. It's been a long, tangled and confusing journey of careful maneuvering and clumsy missteps that can barely be done justice within the pages of a magazine.

As a movement, we divorced our first love, not out of hatred or infidelity, but a need to survive. We banished her name from our lips, denied ourselves the healing power of her caress, and embraced an awkward, arranged marriage with her nemesis. "Until the laws change, our products are intended to make you sicker, not help you recover," we begrudgingly proclaimed to the world.

But the times, they are a'changin'. Like the 1970s, the tide is turning regarding cannabis, but this time on a much larger scale. 29 states and the District of Columbia have legalized cannabis in some form, while several more have decriminalized and/or legalized non-psychoactive forms for medical use. There are multiple legalization bills that show up in Congress every year and it's only a matter of time before one of them gets through. Barring an unforeseen act of Jeff Session's God, it's only a matter of time before the laws that have constrained us disappear entirely. The reunion draws nigh.

But more than ever, it's imperative that we tread cautiously. One wrong move could set us back thirty years. Moreover, we need to seriously consider the implications of our trade's legitimization. Bigger profits will mean bigger businesses showing up, businesses who know how to pull the rug out from under the 'Mom and Pops,' and who think little of the communal values on which our movement was founded. Throw in the overall decline of the brick in mortar in the face of e-commerce, and the writing on the wall is clear: We must evolve. But in Jason's mind, there's cause for optimism.

"The reason I think the head shops will survive is because it's a very unique lifestyle experience-driven place. When you go into a head shop, you're not just going in there buying a pipe; You go for the experience of going to a head shop. They've got incense, tapestries, posters, jewelry; they have a lot of things that are part of that lifestyle, whereas dispensaries just have cannabis. It's really the reason why you go . . . to me, that is why the head shop will survive legalization."

His encouragement isn't without a word of warning, though.

"If you're a billionaire looking at this industry, you're like, 'Wow, they're doing a lot of business...That's really untapped. And look, there's no one guarding the gate.'"

There are multiple actions each of us can take to ensure survival. We can diversify, tapping into complimentary peripheral markets like craft beer and homebrewing. We can ensure that our space is, as Jason describes, truly an experience-driven destination. We can remain at the forefront of innovation. But if we really want to see our trade realize its full potential, Jason believes it's time we stop only thinking on an individual level and consider the collective.

"I feel that we need an association for head shops," he says with conviction. "We have over 10,000 stores all over the country that are all individual entrepreneurial type business's selling smoking accessories. But there is no central place for information. There is no central leadership for political action. There is no education on credit card processing, importing, point of sale, point of purchase, finance, insurance . . . And think about it. We have a multibillion dollar industry going on, yet we have zero political power."

Whether you agree with his position or not, it's hard to deny that he has a point. At the very least, it's a conversation worth having. And whatever the prescription for our continuing survival in these uncertain times is decided to be, it's time we step up and find it, time we stake our claim on the market in which we've already staked our livelihoods. Otherwise, someone else will. ❖

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Smokin' News

from across the country

Pot workers optimistic about job outlook

According to a study from PayScale, cannabis employees are more optimistic about the future of their employers than the rest of the U.S. workforce. The study, based on nearly 500 salary profiles from individuals working in both medical and recreational cannabis businesses, found that 68 percent of canna-business employees “believe their employers have a bright future” compared to 59 percent of Americans from Sept. 2015 to Sept. 2017, according to an outline of the data by the News Tribune.

The researchers also reviewed median annual incomes for cannabis industry employees and found the average budtender makes \$28,300 per year with a median \$98 per week in tips, medical cannabis cultivators earn \$38,000 per year, operations managers make \$43,500 per year, and retail store managers make \$44,000 annually.

In addition to the jobs you'd think of in the industry, PayScale's chief economist Katie Bardaro, opportunity for job growth also exists in tech, financial and ancillary services—from accountants to developers creating online websites to brand-awareness people to help market products.

Banking on cannabis: cities, states look for new options

Despite the legal risk involved in serving the cannabis industry, almost 400 banks and credit unions now do, according to the U.S. Treasury — a number that has more than tripled since 2014. Still there is much room for increasing banking options, and a number of cities and states where legalization has occurred are looking at new options.

In San Francisco, county supervisors are backing the concept of creating a municipal bank, which would end the reliance on large national commercial banks. At least 10 other cities or states are considering public banking as an option.

In Hawaii, regulators have given a Colorado-based credit union permission to serve the state's medical marijuana dispensaries. The credit union, in turn, has partnered with CanPay, an app that allows patients to transfer money from their bank accounts directly to the dispensary's account. Officials there indicate that this new cashless system enables the state to focus on patient, public and product safety while at the same time allowing legal commerce to take place.

Texting more dangerous than taking while driving

A survey conducted by the Harris Poll on behalf of the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America asked over 2,000 adults how dangerous certain activities and factors are when paired with driving. While a majority of the respondents consider driving under the influence of marijuana dangerous, far more believe that using cell phones for social media and texting while driving is dangerous — just as dangerous as driving under the influence of alcohol and/or opioids.

World Health Organization finds no dangers from CBD

Anecdotal evidence has shown that CBD has medical benefits for epileptic seizures, pain, insomnia and inflammation, among other conditions. Now the World Health Organization, the health agency of the United Nations, has officially recommended that cannabidiol (CBD) not be internationally scheduled as a controlled substance, as its use poses no danger to public health and safety, and may in fact assist in the management of Alzheimer's, cancer and Parkinson's.

According to the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence announcement, current evidence shows that CBD even at high doses contains low toxicity, and furthermore, does not exhibit any effects indicative of abuse or dependence.

Marijuana use seeing a “golden age”

Marijuana use among adults over 65 increased more than 300 percent between 2002 and 2014 according to The Centers For Disease Control. When it comes to understanding why more seniors are using marijuana, Dr. Joe Cohen, who recently taught a “Cannabis 101 for Seniors” seminar at Balfour Senior Living communities, points to antidotal evidence that it can help with aging-related conditions including osteoarthritis, arthritis and neurodegenerative diseases, such as Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis.

Still, there is much to be known about usage effects with golden-agers. One health policy official noted that older adults are for example more likely to regularly use prescription medication, and so how the use of cannabis intersects with that — and its possible effects, needs further research

Smoken Spoken

“You really have to be stoned in order to see the beauty in Trump. I can see through a hustler. I took a course in “hustler” when I went to jail, so I saw the “hustle” right off before Trump even saw it. I saw what he was doing. This administration has a hard time doing anything. They got the House, the Senate and the presidency, and they can't pass anything. They can't get anything done! They've got a majority, and their proposals are so stupid that even their own people would rather quit than do that stuff. So as far as marijuana goes... it's pretty safe.”

- Tommy Chong,
Smashing Interviews Magazine

Army allowing pot smokers to join ranks

Until recently, if military service was your calling, and you admitted to having smoked a few joints, there was a good chance you couldn't join up — or at the very least, you would be required to undergo a urinalysis test, when at the Military Entrance Processing Station, (MEPs) for initial processing, and again when reporting for basic training.

Army officials hope to recruit 80,000 new soldiers in 2018, and to do so, are chilling out a bit regarding their stance on marijuana use. As more states lessen or eliminate marijuana penalties, the Army is allowing people to enlist who used the drug in their youth — as long as they realize they can't do so on active duty.

The Army authorized over 500 waivers for applicants who smoked marijuana before seeking to enlist in 2017. The previous year, the number of waivers granted for past smokers was only 191.

“The big thing we're looking for is a pattern of misconduct where they're going to have a problem with authority,” said Maj. Gen. Jeff Snow, head of the Army's recruiting command. “Smoking marijuana in an isolated incident as a teenager is not a pattern of misconduct.”

“Provided they understand that they cannot (smoke marijuana) when they serve in the military,” he added, “I will waive that all day long.” ❖

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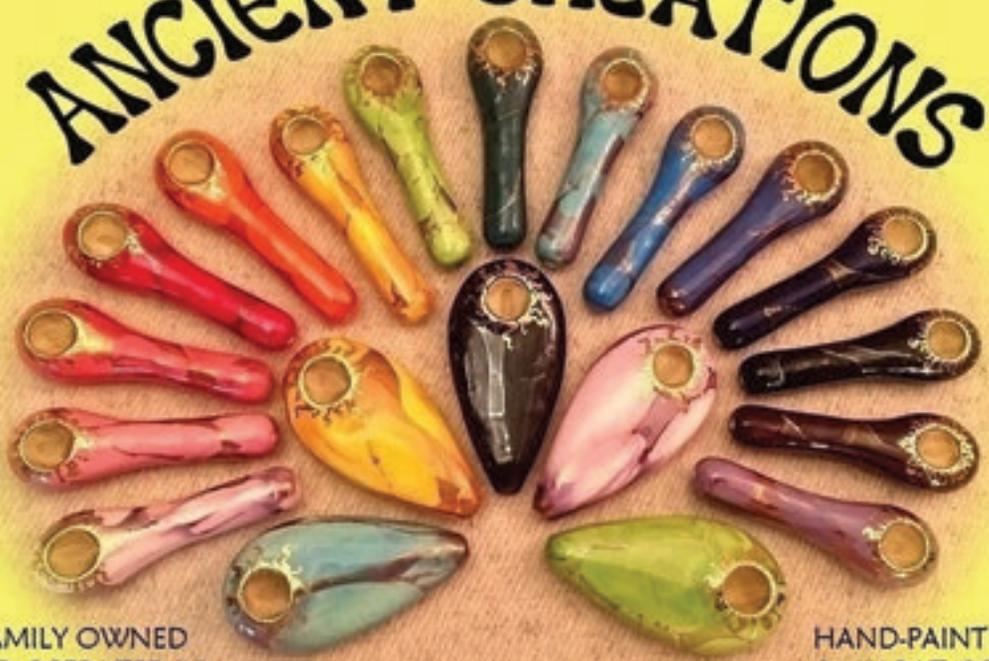
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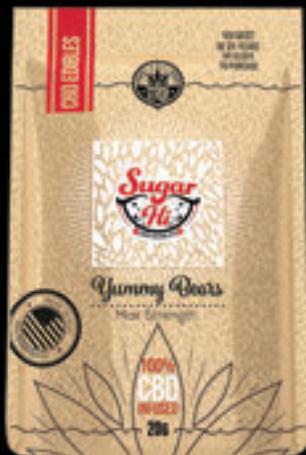
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CHAMPS has become such an industry tradition, that there are now five annual events – two in Las Vegas, and one each in Denver, Atlantic City and Orlando. Each show draws buyers from upwards of 3,000 stores across the country. The winter show in Vegas is the largest with close to 800 exhibitors covering 240,000 square feet of floor space at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

There are glass shows, vape expos, and even cannabis business summits – but CHAMPS is where you'll find everything and anything related to the 420 industry that a retailer would ever need. It's also one of the only such shows that is NOT open to the general public.

"People are there to do business," says CHAMPS founder and CEO Jeff Hirschfeld. "As a store owner, you want to deal with companies whose business model is about supplying you with products and with whom you have a working relationship."

In the beginning, Hirschfeld was himself a vendor. He and his partners at Gage Waterpipes were among a small group selling alternative smoking products at one of the major consumer-goods trade shows. Like a lot of smoke shop related businesses back then, it wasn't long before they were run out of town, so to speak, as the products they sold were deemed undesirable. With no other such venues where they could gather in a safe and professional environment to meet with retailers, Hirschfeld decided the best option was to start a show of his own. He had experience staging similar shows for the electronics industries, and so he figured, "What the hell. . ."

Less than six months after being booted from that show, Hirschfeld and partner Peter Gage staged the Contemporary Tobacco Accessories (CTA) show with 34 vendors at the Gold Coast Hotel in Las Vegas. The show grew steadily over the next few years, but in 2003, CTA suffered a setback along with the rest of the industry, when the Feds launched Operation Pipe Dreams, and word was that the convention was where all the "bad people" were going to be. With many companies laying low, CTA that year had 115 last minute cancelations with only 60 companies exhibiting.

The next year, Hirschfeld and Gage were right back at it – but with a new name. CHAMPS was originally an acronym for Contemporary Handcrafted American-Made Products Show. All the products were intended to be American-made, but as the smoking industry began to open up to a worldwide economy, more imported products were being offered, and so the name simply became CHAMPS – as in "The Premier Counterculture B2B Expo" as the tagline reads.

In years since, CHAMPS has expanded with more vendors and more products. Glass now accounts for about 35 percent of the products available. The rest of the booths are showcasing everything from vape pens and e-liquids, to apparel and novelties, and even custom shopping bags and merchant POS systems.

continued on page 72

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By Darin Burt

Glassblowing



SCOTT BAKER

AKA Baker315

It was the simple act of pulling a stringer that first got Scott Baker's attention and got him thinking about the endless possibilities that go along with glass blowing.

Baker was a body piercer in a smoke shop at the time, and had always been deep into the counter culture scene. Newly inspired, he bought a torch and started melting glass. He was lucky to hang with artists like Geoff Platt and Adam Driver, who schooled him on the fundamentals as well as the elements that go into headier pieces.

"What caught me at first was that it was fun, and then I started to realize that no matter how much I learned or how good I got at it, the progression would never stop," says Baker.

continued on page 78



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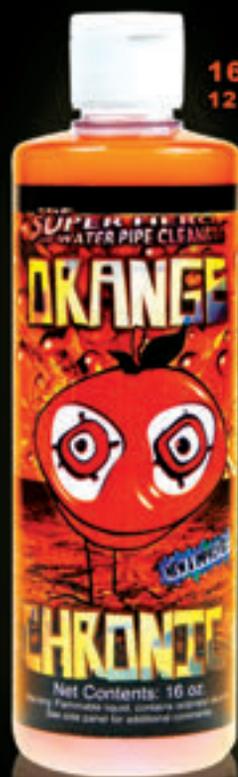
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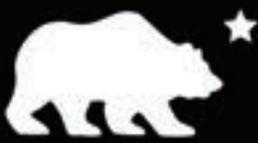
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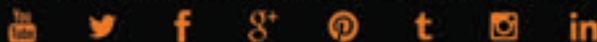
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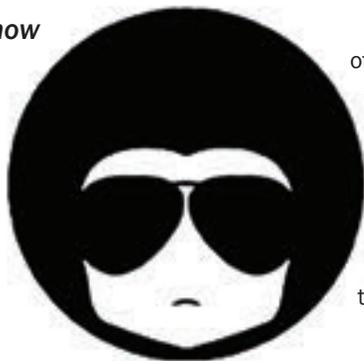
Shop of the Month



It's not always about size. It's how you work the space.

Now, get your head out of the gutter and let's be grownups about this. We're talking business here.

It's easy to get your proverbial undergarments in a tangle over the counter-cultural megastores and their endless aisles bearing sundry trinkets of lifestyle enhancement. But what about the little guy? What about the local hole in the wall that has not only survived the course of decades but become a legend along the way? It's one thing to carve out a cave of wonders when you have the space to do it. It's another feat entirely to do the same with only 500 square feet.



**Sugar Daddy's
smoke shop**

It is for this reason that we sing the praises of Sugar Daddy's in Boston, Massachusetts, the little shop with a big presence that's been dominating the local scene since 1996. Owned and operated by Bernard Henson with assistance from his manager, Dave Bowen, Sugar Daddy's is more than just a smoke shop; it's a community hub of art and culture.

"When you create a community and a certain feel to it, it's like the Stone Soup story," Bernard says. "Everybody brings something to the table . . .

I provide a forum and a venue for people to come in and have a conversation and pick up something they need . . . Political and philosophical discussions are always part of what I encourage in the store. I'll have a discussion and someone else will walk in and just pretend like they're not hearing anything and I'm like, 'No, you're here. You can join the conversation. This is an open forum, an open discussion.'"

continued on page 74

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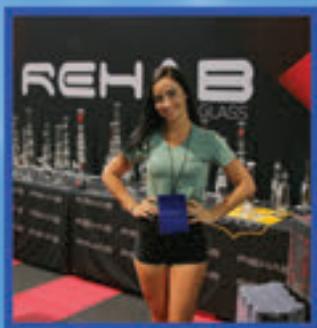
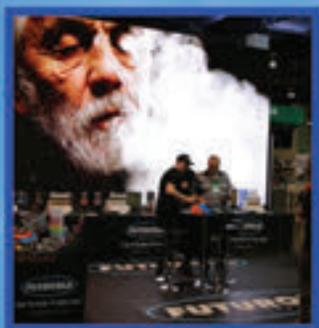
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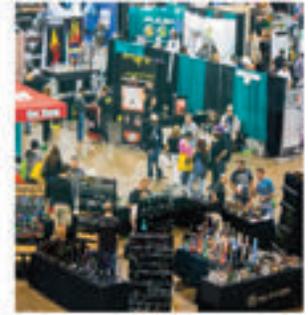
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"It's really the only way a store owner can see all the new products in a safe and low-cost environment," Hirschfeld says.

As a compliment to product vendors, CHAMPS added the Glass Games in 2009. The games start with more than 140 artists competing at the summer show, plus another 80-100 at other events, with finalists vying in the Masters finale in February. More than \$110,000 in cash and prizes await the winners, and attendees at the show gain valuable insight into the glass blowing process.

"Unless you really know the kind of work it takes, and see the artists on the torch, you don't know the talent and experience necessary to create these incredible items," Hirschfeld says. "By teaching (retailers) about what a wonderful experience it is, we hope they'll relay that to their customers and explain to them all the values in American-made glass so they'll be willing to pay the price."

Ironically, before CHAMPS, Hirschfeld was more of an occasional smoker than an active member, or even an advocate, of the 420 community. That position has certainly changed, and it's something he truly believes in with all his heart. Not only does Hirschfeld support outside glass events and organizations, such as the Eugene Glass School, The Degenerate Flame Off (DFO), and The Michigan Glass Project, but the professional manner in which the CHAMPS trade shows are run, lends much credibility to the smoke shop industry as a whole.

"By showing the local communities, convention centers, law authorities, and the unions to NOT expect problems, we've brought an air of decency to the industry," Hirschfeld says, adding that NEVER once has CHAMPS not been invited back -- and that includes long-standing commitments with mainstream venues, and upscale hotels and resort properties.

"We have a sterling reputation, and it's just another piece of the puzzle (in putting the industry in a good light)," Hirschfeld says.

"I've been involved with the business world my whole life. The smoke shop industry is a rocketship launching off the pad," Hirschfeld adds. "The people in this industry are second to none on both ends of the street, and I love what I do. . . not to mention, that I get five paid vacations a year!" ♦

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Shop of the Month



It goes beyond the internal goings-on of the store, though. As Bernard explains, when he describes his shop as a “hub” he means exactly that; a central point that “connects the spokes in the wheel.” For David’s part, when he’s not “chopping it up at the shop,” he’s more than likely at Feet of Clay Studios, engaging the local art community through creations of his own. Meanwhile, Bernard, with David’s help is an active supporter of the local hip hop scene, regularly using his business to sponsor and promote local shows.

“It’s just about creating opportunities for people to get to the next level,” he explains. “We’re all here for the same purpose. We’re all on the same team. The sooner we realize that, the better off we’ll be, because right now, we’re just fighting over . . .” he pauses and emphasizes the final two words, “Dumb. Shit.”



But the store discussions and external promotions are more than just gimmicks to distract from a lack of shelf space. Bernard has what you need, both in quantity and quality. “I try to carry better products,” he qualifies. “I’m not scraping the bottom of the barrel for all these imports . . . that’s the other guy’s job. There are so many of those other guys. The store is small . . . but I do have a lot of product stacked in here . . . I like to say that I have a high population density, just like my town.”

His community-minded approach informs every aspect of his business, coming into play most effectively through his sales and customer service model. Really, the word, ‘sales’ only comes into play because ultimately, customers are making purchases, but Bernard’s not pitching. He’s educating.

“I don’t do the elitist, ‘who do you know’ and ‘what do you collect’” he explains. “I’m just saying, what level do you need me to educate you to? I’ll teach you a 101 class, I’ll teach you a 201 class . . . I’ll give you a seminar. I don’t care. I just want to help you get what you need out of your experience.”

Today more than ever, though, education is a two-way street. Sometimes, the best thing to do is listen.

“That’s something I picked up early on,” he agrees. “Some people want to know what’s going on, but now that you have Instagram, etc., where people can do their own homework, some have enough education and experience to figure it out . . . I don’t even go with the ‘I think you should get this,’ line. It always comes from a place of, ‘From what you’re telling me, I think this best speaks to your needs.’” ❖



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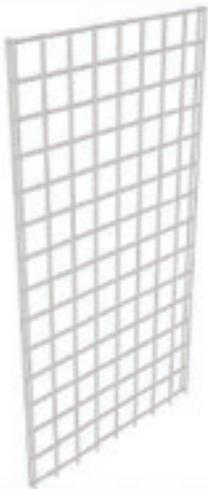
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Scott Baker continued



“When I pull a finished piece out of the kiln, whether it’s a simple spoon or a multi thousand dollar tank rig, I don’t spend too much time admiring it,” he adds. “I like to get straight into figuring out what I can do to make the next one better.”

“Back in the day, my main inspiration was glasspipes.org, which was the only place you could look at glass pipes on the internet. Now, my cup runneth over with inspiration — there are so many bad ass cats, like Banjo, Freak, and Eusheen, blowing things up every day.”

Every glass artist seems to have a signature piece — Baker’s is his battle tanks. The futuristically styled rigs, some with radar dishes and missiles attached, are designed with the body as the bubbler, the joint on the backside, and the gun barrel as the place where you take a hit. The tracks are constructed from as many as 25 individual pieces, and forming and fitting all the intricate parts can take up to eight hours to complete.

Don’t expect to find a drab green tank. You’re more likely to find one in rainbow colors. There’s also the possibility of collaborations to see what other artists will bring to the creations.

continued on page 98

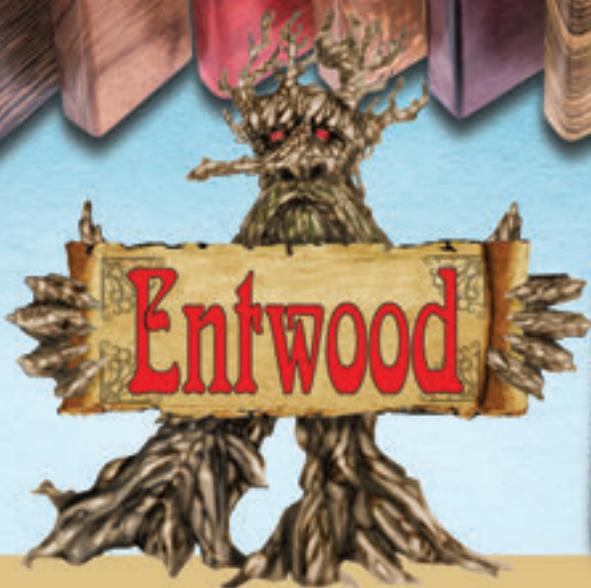


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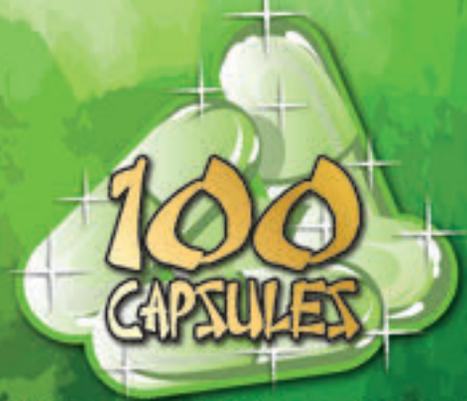
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Hydra

The Juul from Pax Labs may have had a clumsy start in the market, but it has since pulled an impressive about-face, quickly becoming the single best-selling e-cigarette available today.

It makes sense. The e-cigarette reimagined, as it were, with its patented salt crystal technology, has brought a level of satisfaction to the real cigarette smoker previously unseen. Meanwhile, the rest of the vape market has veered away from its original purpose of helping smokers quit and instead become a hobby for young adults with too much time and too little self-respect.

Pauses, takes massive drag from Eleaf iStick Pico.

But there are still two major complaints: a sadly anemic battery and a charging port that is inconveniently unique from all other e-cigs. Luckily, the Typhon Charging Case from Hydra solves both issues with stylish precision.

Precision is a recurring theme here. Thanks to its magnetic repulsion/retraction technology, opening and closing the unit is an act of frictionless ease, despite a mere .12mm clearance on either side—and that tiny clearance means no wobbles. Meanwhile, the silicone interior snugly fits the fully assembled Juul, along with its charger and one extra pod.

The battery boasts an impressive 800 milliamps, nearly triple that of the Juul itself, while the charging port brings us back into the fold with the standard micro USB. The outer shell is ruggedly constructed from anodized aluminum and the butt end features four LED indicator lights to let you know when it's time to plug back in.

Considering how hard it is to squeeze any revenue out of Pax's microscopic margins, Hydra's Typhon Charging Case should be a welcomed addition to the inventory of any shop looking for secondary methods to cash in on the Juul's success. ❖

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We live in a throwaway world, accumulating, consuming, hoarding and discarding the mass-produced, commercial detritus of planned obsolescence, daily conditioned to replace rather than restore. In our era of homogenized convenience, it's often difficult to remember how to even place value in our simple, daily possessions, especially if they don't require an outlet or a micro USB.

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The two most prominent compounds in the cannabis plant are THC and CBD. THC is the party side of things, responsible for the giggles, the euphoria, and that empty box of Cheezits in your lap. CBD on the other hand, won't make Sponge Bob watchable, but it can help with a plethora of ailments, from minor pain to epilepsy. The best part: CBD is also prominent in the industrial hemp plant, which means it can be obtained legally (unless you live in Indiana, but that's a whole other article.)

Not surprisingly, the market has been flooded with companies looking to cash in on these revelations. And though Stash CBD's product line is ostensibly another rendition of what has already been offered, ad nauseum, the creators of the brand are confident that the passion and care they put into their work will help them to stand out among the throngs of competitors.

Not all hemp is created equally, a fact that is near and dear to the hearts of everyone at Stash CBD. Therefore, when sourcing their raw material, they're as discriminating as the guy in the Sam Adams commercial pretends to be when selecting hops and grains. Forget the bulk importers. They go domestic, hand-selecting only the finest strains of Colorado-grown hemp, ensuring every plant is organic, non-GMO and pesticide-free.

Equally important is their Co2 extraction process. Recognizing the superiority of supplements in their natural state over their isolates, they opt for a full spectrum extraction, meaning they employ the entire entourage of cannabinoids the hemp plant has to offer, thereby maximizing both the efficacy and nutritional value of their offerings.

Relief can come in many forms, and Stash CBD's line bears clear witness to this fact. Currently, they offer the benefits of CBD in edibles, drops, prefilled vape cartridges and vape additives with more consumption methods to come. ❖

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Swine Army



It started with a T-shirt. Actually, it started with a crappy neighbor with too much time to kill. Then, there was the T-shirt: a graphic of a pig with the words, "Legalize Pot," above in a large font, followed by "Belly Pigs," below, at about half the size. The combination was a hilarious head-turner that cleverly related a message layered in implications. Initially, it was part of Swine Army founder, Tim Robinson's campaign to keep his beloved pet after his neighbor had complained to the local authorities. But to him, the

double entendre of the message was about a deeper need in society to set the individual free; free to keep a pet pig, free to medicate as we please, free to pursue happiness as we see fit.

From the popularity of the T-shirt, Swine Army was born, a locally produced, globally minded hemp clothing and accessory company based in the cultural enclave of Asheville, North Carolina. The latest offering in the line is the Swine Army Multi-Tool, an all-in-one smoker accessory, hand

stitched (often by Robinson himself) and stocked with all the essentials of a proper sesh: a refillable Clipper lighter, a 12mm borosilicate one-hitter, a pack of Pure Hemp papers, a poker, three feet of Bee Line hemp wic'k, and a VSyndicate grinder card with a "pincher" for hand rolled smokes. The \$35 retail price means your customers can afford it while the sustainability of the operation means the earth can too. Free the pig. Free the smoke. Free your mind. ❖

Tim Robinson 828.505.7053 swinearmy@gmail.com legalizepotbellypigs.com swinearmy.com

Weed Wipes

Attention smokers and tokers! Weed Wipes founder, Jim Berry has a message for you: Stop using solvent-based cleaners!

Given the nature of Mr. Berry's business, he might have an ulterior motive, but he also has a decent point. Most solvents are toxic and leave behind harmful residues on the surfaces they are supposed to clean. Even rubbing alcohol has its risks. Its ubiquity in American homes may lead us to see it as benign, but read the label; the side effects can be brutal. Besides, it's only semi-effective.

Luckily, Mr. Berry invented Weed Wipes, an all-natural, organic, nontoxic, edible solution made from plant-based oils. Yes, we said edible. But unless you're vegan and in dire need of essential fatty acids, snacking on it is not recommended. Also, we're not doctors, so scratch the vegan thing. But back to the point. This stuff is super effective.

The secret? Rather than dissolution, Weed Wipes works through a combination of polar attraction and encapsulation. Put simply, the resin is more attracted to the solution than whatever nonporous material you're cleaning. Just rinse in hot water, squirt a few drops on the included brush and scrub. Add dish soap and scrub a little more. Then, watch the resin peel away like the cares of your day after a solid b-ng rip. It also works pre-emptively; squirt a few drops in the basin of your new waterpipe and the subsequent cleanup will be as simple as rinsing in hot water. Multiple kits and accessories available. ❖

303.232.2301 jberry@weedwipes.com weedwipes.com



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Scott Baker *continued*



Baker also loves making skulls. He took a sculpting class from Ray Olsen, an artist at Disney, who showed him a basic form, and things progressed from there. He uses a broken paring knife to sculpt the hot glass into shape and makes the skull look as “evil and angry” and possible. He’s also very proud of his handcrafted pieces that many mistake for having been done with a precision lathe.

Baker spends a couple of days a week making production pieces that will pay the bills, and the remainder of the time creating “bad ass” works of art. Even with a simple spoon or chillum, he still makes it unique with an artistic flare.

“I try to do things that I haven’t seen or to put my own twist on it — I’d stop if I ever felt like I couldn’t add something new,” Baker says. “I love the freedom to create — I don’t know what I would do without glass; it adds freedom to every aspect of my life.” ❖

Scott Baker AKA Baker315
Syracuse, NY
www.instagram.com/baker315





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Classic Edition:

How to Drink Beer in Belgium



For as small as it is geographically (by square mileage, it's roughly 20% of the size of my home state of Georgia), Belgium packs a heavy punch in the beer industry. Due to its brewing traditions and stature, it's widely considered one of the most influential brewing hubs on the planet.

But don't let its reputation and history overwhelm you. As a belt-notching boozehound, you can—and should—go there and spend several days drinking beer. When my wife and I planned our trip, we decided to spread our wings and hit a handful of cities, spending roughly two days in each. We walked everywhere within each city with the exception of two tram rides in Ghent and two Ubers in Brussels. Between cities, we took the train.

Speaking of trains, they're fantastic, cheap, and reliable in Belgium. We bought and shared a 10-journey Rail Pass for € 76 (\$84), and that covered all of our train travel on the trip. Plus, if you're younger than 26, you can get the Go Pass 10 for € 51 (\$56). (You young people get all the goddamn breaks. Now, if you would, please get off my lawn.)

You will be tempted by the Westvleteren Abbey, the Poperinge hops museum, Orval, Brouwers Verzet, and the St. Bernardus bed and breakfast. But trust me: On your first go-around, stick to the basics below and you'll be rewarded with plenty of hidden drinking holes, cavernous tunnels, and some top-notch bar pets. To help you out, here's a beginner's guide to drinking beer in Belgium.

Brussels

Travel tips: Take an Uber or the train to Beersel, where you can visit 3 Fonteinen; drink Westvleteren 12 at the old, weird Centrum Hotel; and wander around a bonkers castle. Back in Brussels, eat brunch at Peck 47. Buy as many bottles as you can carry at a handful of fantastic bottle shops. Oh, and if you try the semen sandwich, let me know. I'm honestly curious. Airbnb recommendation: We stayed in Bruno's "vintage eco flat," which was cozy, cheap, and gorgeous. We would've paid extra for the long balcony that overlooks the bustling heart of Brussels. Bruno welcomed us by flipping through an expansive guidebook he made for guests and instructing us where to get frites.

Ghent

Travel tips: There's a ridiculous castle right in the middle of the city. There's also an impressive bottle shop called Drankcentrale de Hopduvel. One rainy morning, we came across a wonderful bed and breakfast/restaurant combo Le Jardin Bohémien, where I proceeded to stuff my face. You should do the same.

Airbnb recommendation: We stayed in Nina's "spacious loft in the city center," which was near a tram stop but also had a secluded patio/garden space in back. Nina welcomed us with tons of recommendations and a couple bottles of Gulden Draak.

Bruges

Travel tips: Visit the Flemish Nightmare Museum, which will drive you to drink more beer. For a fancy dinner, Refter was the best meal we had in all of Belgium. Sanseveria Bagelsalon was almost too precious for its own good, but with bagels like that, I can't front. Touching a vial of Jesus' blood was easily one of the most metal things I've ever done, and there's a Struise bottle shop next door to the basilica. Oh, and you can enjoy some Belgian swill from a train station vending machine.

Airbnb recommendation: We stayed in Karl's "top floor studio," and I can say without exaggeration that Karl is the greatest Airbnb host I've ever met. He picked us up at the train station in his car, recommended amazing food we would've never found on our own, and could easily charge double for the space. Above and beyond.

Antwerp

Travel tips: You could easily lose an entire day in Museum aan de Stroom. ZOO Antwerp is also worth a visit, especially if you like getting weirdly close to animals. Speaking of animals, keep an eye out for beer sloths.

Airbnb recommendation: We stayed in Matti and Lolo's "Antwerp central bed and vintage," which included a fridge full of beer. ❖



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