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DENVER AND THE WEST

Denverites vying for top of High Times Medical cannabis heap

By **John Ingold**
The Denver Post

POSTED: 04/02/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT
UPDATED: 04/02/2011 06:03:57 PM MDT

Aubrey Gordon Cornelius and 21 others

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STORY STATS

To prepare for this weekend's High Times Medical Cannabis Cup, The Clinic, a pair of Denver dispensaries, spared no effort.

The shops enlisted their best growers, provided them with premium equipment and plant nutrients, and set them up in specialized garden spaces, all in the hopes of producing marijuana that will be judged tops in the competition.

"We're going all out," said Ryan Cook, one of The Clinic's owners.

In its first year, the Medical Cannabis Cup — to be held today and Sunday at the Exdo Event Center in north Denver — illustrates a relatively new phenomenon in the state's medical-marijuana community. Statewide, there are now at least three such competitions, in which medical-marijuana growers submit samples and a panel of experts picks a winner. Awards are given in a number of categories, sometimes by strain type — upper "sativas" or sedative "indicas," for instance — or sometimes in areas such as best smelling, prettiest looking and most potent.

Representatives from this weekend's competition worked with the state Department of Revenue's Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division to make sure the event complies with state laws, division spokeswoman Julie Postlethwait said. A representative from the division is even scheduled to participate in a panel discussion Sunday.

A number of dispensaries and smaller personal caregivers have embraced the competitions, saying they offer a chance to both hone growing methods and gain a marketing advantage over competitors. Cook said this weekend's competition will come with laboratory testing of the submissions, helping entrants and patients better understand the products.

"We want the patients to understand that we are constantly looking to improve our methods," Cook said.

But the growth of the competitions has been met warily by other members of the medical-marijuana community, who worry they send the wrong message in an industry that is still solidifying its legitimacy.

A spokeswoman for the Medical Marijuana Industry Group, a trade organization active in lobbying at the state Capitol, said a number of the group's members weren't participating in the competition,



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though she said she didn't ask why.

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Jason Lauve, publisher of Cannabis Health News Magazine, said the competitions put too much emphasis on declaring one grower's strain the best. More important for patients, Lauve said, is finding strains that work best for them, which vary widely person-to-person.

"I find it hard, in my mind, to have a competition for medicine when what we're really talking about is helping people," Lauve said.

Timothy Tipton, a medical-marijuana activist who runs the Caregivers Cup competition, said he thinks the events have a place.

"They're more social-networking events that are a necessary evil in a growing industry than they are anything else," Tipton said.

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I have a debilitating stammer and I have applied for my pot card. Actually a Platinum Select Gonj Rewards card.

Sometimes Funyuns f-f-f-Funyuns Funyuns fffffunyunS DANG-IT! Sometimes Funyuns help but when I get my pot ppppt ppp-p--p -pot DANG-IT! pot card I think I'll be just f-f ffff fi-fi-fine DANG-IT!



Sleek M | 6:31 PM on Sunday Apr 3 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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KUSH wrote:

A spokeswoman for the Medical Marijuana Industry Group, a trade group active in lobbying at the state Capitol

...and selling out patients as well as local dispensary owners!! :evil:

Who ya fooling, Dave.



max parrish | 6:04 PM on Sunday Apr 3 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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*GeneH wrote:*The numbing of the dumbing of America.

You tell 'em Geno! Have another bourbon on the house before you drive home. How about some more pearls of wisdom, oh wise one. The whole world would be better of if they lived life your way, huh Geeeeene? :lol: 8)



b edward y | 12:33 AM on Sunday Apr 3 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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A lot of commenters are expressing ridicule and disgust over this out of ignorance. Cannabis Cup is a famous international event which has been ongoing for 25 years. It is held in Amsterdam where marijuana and hashish have been decriminalized and anyone can purchase and use it at coffee shops and cafes without any sort of license proving medical use only.

The same folks who don't want anyone from Denver associated with this event are the same ones who want to ban dispensaries and arrest MMJ patients. Then you have a few self-righteous MMJ patients with debilitating conditions who seem angry at the idea of anyone even thinking of using cannabis for traditional mystical and recreational purposes. There are many differences between strains, both in physical and psychoactive effects as well as flavor, aroma, and appearance. These differences will be analyzed by a panel of experts who can elucidate clearly on the subtleties of each strain. I think that is pretty cool.

Cannabis Cup is in Amsterdam. It is not run by the devil. It is not damaging the reputation of Denver. It is a fun and positive event. Some folks here are angry that a few local growers even want to enter it and that doesn't make a lot of sense to me.



CAPTAIN HOOK | 10:25 AM on Saturday Apr 2 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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I'm sure the judging panel will include chronic pain patients judging which strain gives the best pain relief, and cancer patients deciding which best relieves their chemotherapy induced nausea.



Thomas Bangalter | 9:52 AM on Saturday Apr 2 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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The numbing of the dumbing of America.



Gene H | 8:26 AM on Saturday Apr 2 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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This is really about serious medicine and High Times is the new JAMA.



Greg K | 7:43 AM on Saturday Apr 2 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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Just imagine if Pharmaceutical companies had a competition to see what drug alleviated pain the best, at the least cost and which chemical drug killed the fewest people.

It is nice to see friendly competition among growers to discern the best of the best Medical Marijuana.



Ray D | 7:13 AM on Saturday Apr 2 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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I have severe uncontrolled glaucoma and am a medical marijuana patient. Access to medical marijuana is very important to me.

This Cannabis Cup competition is counterproductive from the standpoint of medical marijuana advocates. The Cannabis Cup competition is the sort of event that one would expect to be held by breweries. If the medical marijuana community wants to be taken seriously, they need to stop these sorts of activities. They need to behave in a serious manner if they want to be taken seriously.

The Cannabis Cup is like a competition between Eli Lilly and Pfizer in order to determine who makes a medication for erectile dysfunction that provides the stiffest erections as judged by the editors of Hustler magazine. Eli Lilly and Pfizer know better and so should the medical marijuana industry.



John A | 6:46 AM on Saturday Apr 2 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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junkpaper wrote: Are the judges Cheech and Chong? "That's good stuff man"

Most likely... :lol:



Steven B | 6:21 AM on Saturday Apr 2 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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Are the judges Cheech and Chong? "That's good stuff man"



Viva Americans | 4:39 AM on Saturday Apr 2 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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