

Photo: Clint Taurus

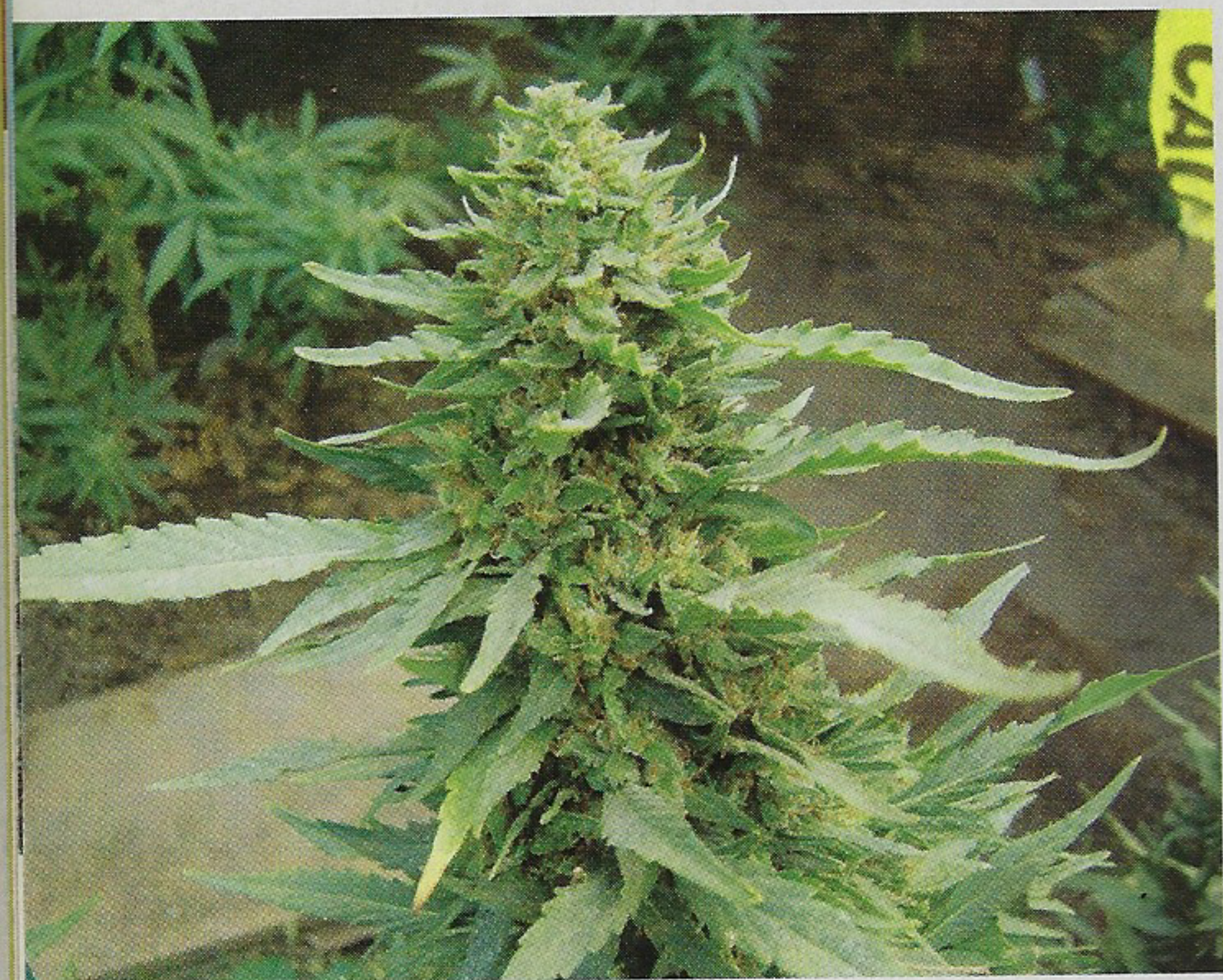


Photo: Etienne Lovejoy

allowed under the Compassionate Use Act (such as tinctures, foods, hashish, kief, oils, etc.).

- Our Appellate Courts have ruled in favor of probationers' rights to use medical cannabis in *People v. Lekook*, and completely supported the inclusive protections afforded to qualified individuals under SB-420 in *People v. Urziceanu*. These rulings further set into stone the foundations laid in *California Health & Safety Code §11362.5* and *§11362.7*.
- The California Highway Patrol recently changed their obscene policy of ignoring the Compassionate Use Act, due to pressures caused from a lawsuit levied against them from ASA on behalf of several individuals who had been the targets of state thievery under color of law. Subsequently, many local police jurisdictions are now taking a more progressive stance in their medical cannabis policies. When they feel the heat, they see the light.

Unfortunately, there are still many hurdles to overcome in order for the will of the electorate to be implemented. Qualified Individuals are still faced daily with all manner of insult and injury. Discrimination is rampant, both in the public and private sectors.

- Most employers (and all drug testing companies) refuse to acknowledge the C.U.A. and patients are threatened with termination, in defiance of California laws and the Americans with Disabilities Act.



Providing each other with the resources and support needed to produce medical-grade cannabis, we are operating under a model of Direct Access, as the voters of California intended it.

- Property owners mistakenly assume that medical cannabis is still a drug they can ban from use on their property, under the veil of the "illicit substance" clause in rental/lease agreements.
- California Child Protective Services still interacts with adult family members as though their medical cannabis use is a threat to children and will actively terrorize such families over this issue. Likewise, many hospitals will turn in mothers who test positive for traces of cannabinoids, causing irreparable harm to many law-abiding families. Ironically, child birthing is one of the historically proven medicinal uses of cannabis facilitating a smoother labor.
- Many local law enforcement agencies throughout the state continue to ignore the authority vested in the Courts, in the Legislature and in the People, when it comes to enforcement of the Compassionate Use Act. Agents of police departments, sheriffs departments and district attorney offices routinely select only small portions of the C.U.A. to enforce (and vigorously so), while depriving qualified individuals of the protections afforded them under the law. It remains to be seen whether or not police will honor the ID card system now that it's going statewide, but the locations that have spearheaded ID cards have had mixed results, with quite arbitrary enforcement and no uniform guidelines.

LAYING A SOLID FOUNDATION

We've had a lot of good times in our garden over the years. We've also suffered many hardships, including the loss of the lives of people we hold dear. But all of the eight years were worth it, because we fought the good fight, and came out ahead in spite of overwhelming odds. Also, we established protocols and procedures that can be utilized anywhere in California, to establish true patient collectives. After serving nine years as a primary caregiver, I am moving onto other things (and to a different home). Hopefully, I can spend more time advocating for patients' rights, authoring helpful legislation and continuing in my role as an expert witness and gardening consultant. I am truly humbled that I have been able to help so many patients and make so many new friends through all of this. Believe it or not, I'm looking forward to NOT growing cannabis for a little while, so that I can once again see the forest from the trees. **H**

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