

PRESS RELEASE

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Date: November 12, 2022

Contact: 420@CaptainCannabis.com / Contact@oKee.com

NOW IN PAPERBACK: CAPTAIN CANNABIS: 420 SCREENPLAY

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA: Captain Cannabis creator Verne Andru announced the release of his original *Captain Cannabis: 420 Feature Screenplay* in paperback format.

"The plan with Captain Cannabis has always been to avoid historic problems translating comic books to the screen. Comics tend to have poorly defined characters with no story making it difficult sustaining interest for 90 minutes. Visual eye-candy only goes so far," Verne explains.

"Captain Cannabis: 420 Feature Screenplay"

Series: 420

Publisher: oKee.comX, November, 2022

Language: English, written and illustrated by Verne Andru

Paperback: 116 pages total - 107 screenplay pages, retail price \$24.95

ISBN: 978-1-9994783-6-0

Instead of going from comic book to film, as done traditionally, Verne does the film work first; the story is written in standard feature screenplay format that he turns into drawings which become visuals on the screen and comic book panels. This approach ensures the story works as a film while giving the comic books a unique cinematic quality.

Priced at \$24.95 the paperback contains the complete 107-page screenplay as registered with the Writers Guild of America and used for the first *Captain Cannabis: 420* comic book. Written in standard screenplay format, it assumes a third-person point of view, like watching a movie; novels are often written in first-person.

Published by oKee.comX, *Captain Cannabis: 420 Feature Screenplay* (ISBN 9781999478360) is available now through www.CaptainCannabis.com and online resellers.

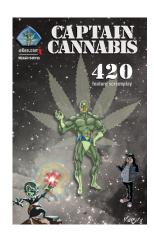
For more information:

www.CaptainCannabis.com www.facebook.com/pages/captaincann www.oKee.com www.VerneAndru.com



FACT SHEET

CAPTAIN CANNABIS: 420 Feature Screenplay



What is it? – Original Captain Cannabis: 420 Feature Screenplay.

Why is it important? – Written during the "drug wars" it is the latter half of the Captain Cannabis story arc as registered with Writers Guild of America West during 2005.

What's inside? – 116 pages including introduction by Verne and 107 text pages in standard screenplay format. What is the story about? – 420 mixes highbrow comedy and adventure with the rough and tumble sensibilities of the wrong side of the tracks. The two human protagonists are anything but heroes and this holds part of the appeal, as a waitress and a washed up roadie get mixed up in outlandish circumstances. Throw in a cuddly alien with superpowers and a treacherous US Vice President and you get an enjoyable read with an expansive subtext.

Genre – Squarely in the fantasy camp, Captain Cannabis is a rich blend of dark comedy and gritty realism wrapped in a superhero cloak.

Statement – Captain Cannabis is about making life more fun.

Audience Rating – Mature.

Concept – Epic fantasy series.

Title – *CAPTAIN CANNABIS: 420 Feature Screenplay.*

Series – 420.

Publisher – oKee.comX, November, 2022.

Writer & Artist – Verne Andru.

Language – English.

Graphic Novella – 116 pages, 107 screenplay pages.

Size – 6.62" x 10.25" / 305 x 533mm.

ISBN - 978-1-9994783-6-0.

Pricing – \$24.95.



Captain Cannabis: 420 Feature Screenplay - Book ISBN 978-1-9994783-6-0 Contact: 420@CaptainCannabis.com



1/37/15

An award-winning designer, Verne Andru is best known for his illustration, animation and directing work with some of the best including Captain Canuck, Universal, Ikea, and Nelvana's animated cult-classic *Rock & Rule*.

Born in Vancouver, Canada during 1955, Verne dabbled in music and art but it wasn't until he met the crew from Captain Canuck Comics at a high school career day that





he found his calling. His film career took off with his first job painting animation cels on *Blowhard*, a National Film Board short, followed by animation assignments on Hanna Barbera's *Godzilla Power Hour* and *Jana of the Jungle* Saturday-morning cartoon lineup.

Staying true to print, Verne was editor on two issues of "The Canadian Graphic Collector" in addition to his writing and illustration contributions. Comic work includes Phantacea, Captain Canuck, MARVEL and Charleton Comics. In addition to teaching comic book production and animation at the prestigious Vancouver Film School, Verne created the "Simply Accounting" name, designed Pigtronix's flagship musical effects pedal and launched both into successful brands.

Driven to draw, Verne is working on new editions of the Captain Cannabis series he created in the nineteen-seventies. A unique mix of science fiction, dark comedy and gritty realism, it's a fun story with great characters adventuring in an inspired universe told in a truly original voice.

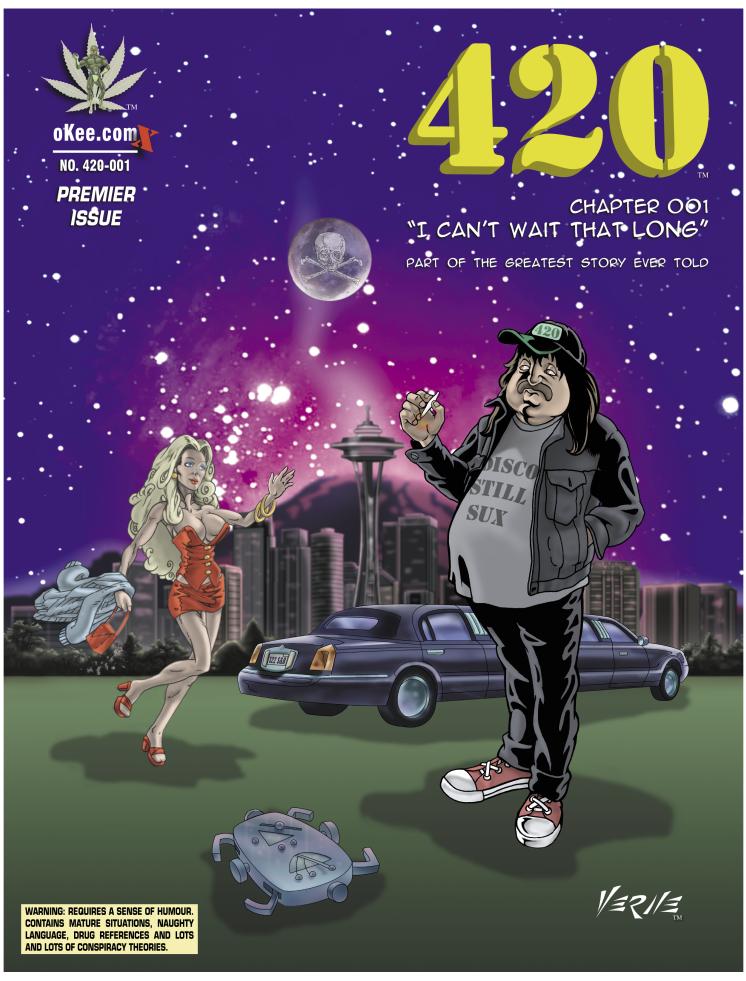
Verne creates best in Vancouver, enjoying life with family and music.

Website: www.VerneAndru.com

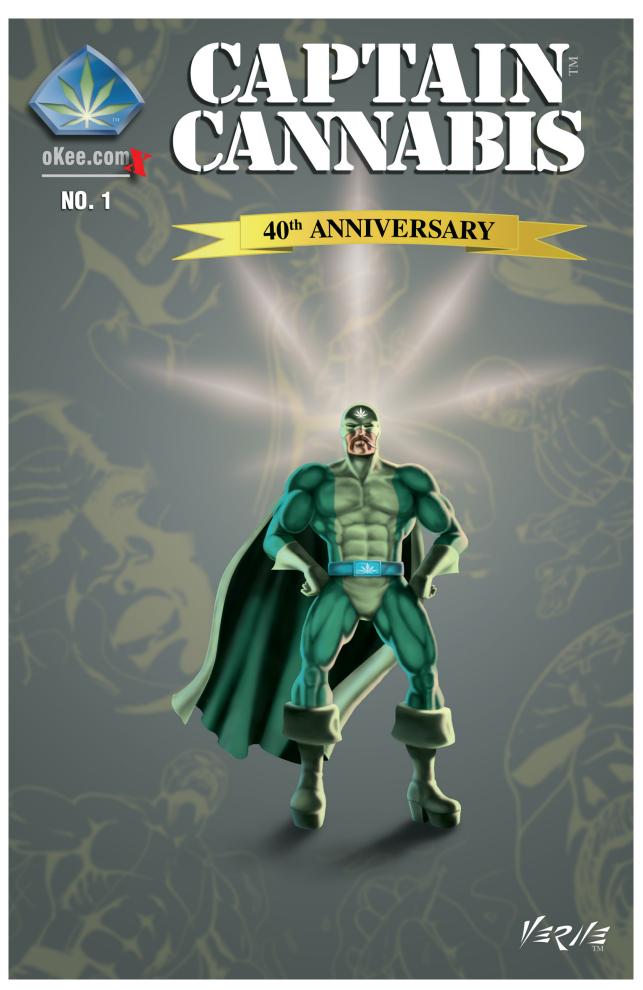
IMDb: www.imdb.com/name/nm3252989/

Amazon Author: www.amazon.com/author/verne

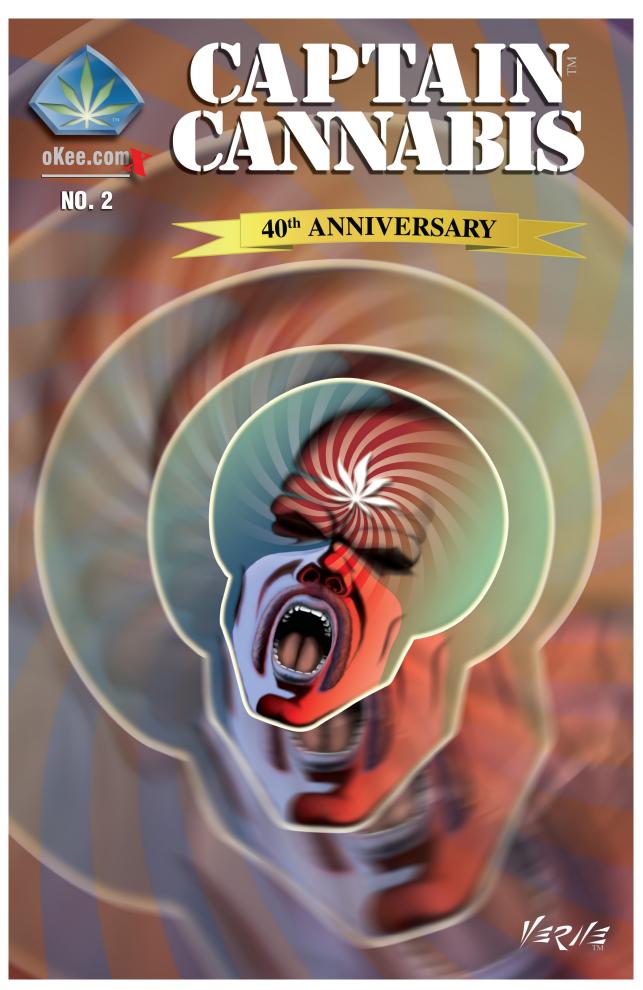
Goodreads: www.goodreads.com/author/show/16875456.Verne_Andru



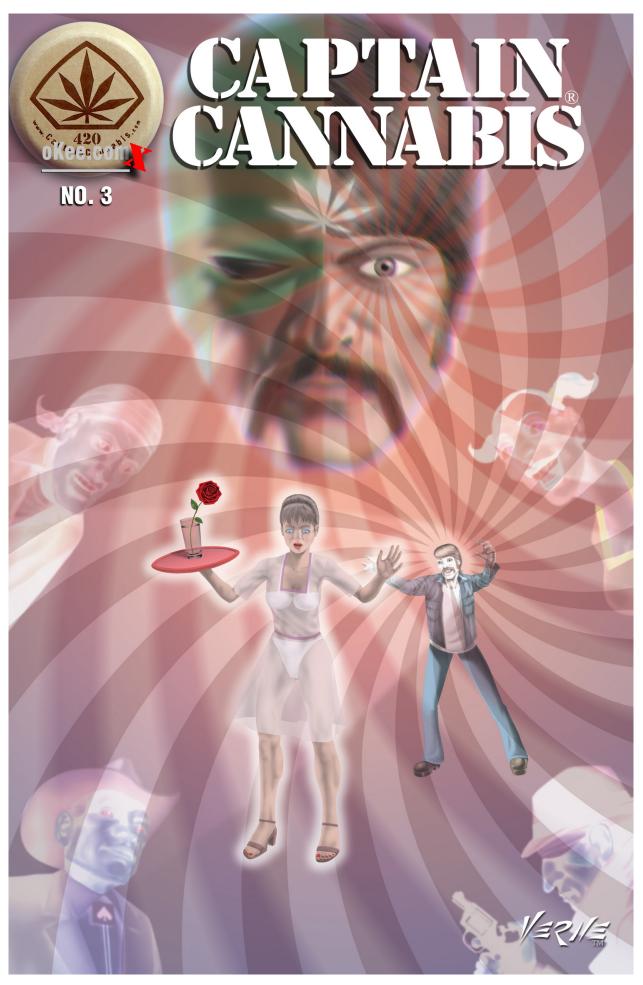
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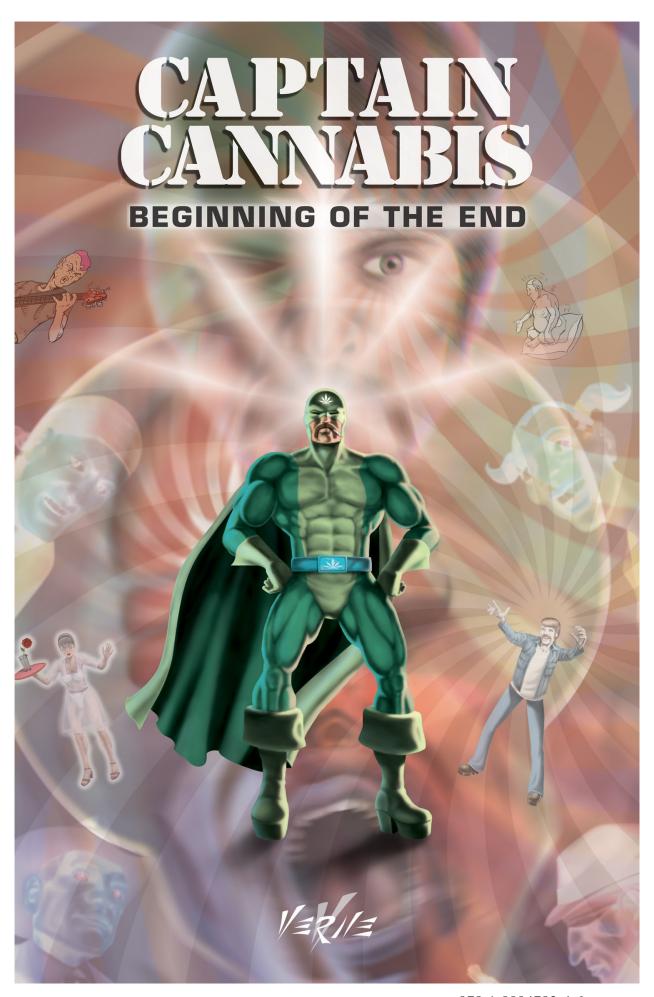
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News / Culture / Communities



Canadian believed to be the creator of the first cannabis superhero, Captain Cannabis

The defender of peace, love and the marijuana way was created by illustrator Verne Andru in 1975

David Yasvinski

Sep 30, 2020 • September 30, 2020 • 3 minute read



"Captain Cannabis is the first superhero dedicated to peace, love and understanding," Andru said. "He is the superhero that we all have inside of us. He's a stoner created in the spirit of underground comics." PHOTO BY CAPTAIN CANNABIS

Captain Cannabis is back on the scene, finally freed from the villainous forces of prohibition that sent the hero into hiding decades ago.

The defender of peace, love and the marijuana way was created by Canadian illustrator Verne Andru in 1975 and is believed to be the first cannabis inspired caped-crusader. "To the best of my knowledge, yes," Andru said of the distinction, according to *Benzinga*. "The government's copyright certificate is dated 4/20/1977, making it the first link between superheroes, comics and the 420 world."

Living through harsh Manitoba winters in the early 1970s without much to do but consume the American culture that was pouring across the border, Andru said Captain Cannabis' origin story began with a visit to a small store specializing in stoner culture. "When I was a kid, I didn't buy into the mainstream superhero comics," he said. "It seemed to me that these stories were narrow and glorified violence.

"My view on comics changed when I saw a pile of underground comics in a headshop in the early '70s."



The artist has re-released the first two issues of Captain Cannabis — titled Roll me another one and Roll me another one just like the other one. PHOTO BY FACEBOOK

At the same time the counterculture movement was pushing Canada to consider decriminalizing marijuana, Andru was putting the finishing touches on the first issue of Captain Cannabis — the story of a loveable earth-dwelling bum that becomes the planet's saviour, thanks to an assist from an intergalactic strain of weed.

"Captain Cannabis is the first superhero dedicated to peace, love and understanding," Andru said. "He is the superhero that we all have inside of us. He's a stoner created in the spirit of underground comics."

His creation was immediately embraced, Andru said. "Everyone instantly loved him and his future seemed assured," he said. "We had a receptive audience and a distribution network in the headshops."

But Andru did not anticipate the forces of evil working against his hero, and U.S. threats to close down the border forced Canada to shelf its progressive plans for pot. President Reagan's ensuing war on drugs, and the climate it created, would deal the Captain a fatal blow after just two issues.

Today's vastly different environment has allowed Andru's hero to emerge from the shadows and continue the fight against intolerance, gratuitous violence and bad people in general. Legalization has also made it possible for Andru to attend comic book conventions and showcase his work to new generations of fans.

"There I can see how people's faces light up when they get their first Captain Cannabis," he said. "There was a resounding change. Now I have people super excited about my work lining up at my stands and... they even ask for selfies!"

The artist has re-released the first two issues of Captain Cannabis — titled *Roll me another one* and *Roll me another one just like the other one* — and has written a script for a movie that will hopefully make it to the screen one day, when the world is ready for it.

The adventure is just beginning, Andru said. "I've lived so long with these characters that they tend to write themselves, so I have many more stories to tell."







Introducing Captain Cannabis, the 1st cannabis superhero – illustrated here in Canada

October 17, 2020 by Canadian Evergreen Staff





By Sheldon Smith

Don't call it a comeback: The first cannabis superhero – yes, you read that right – is making his triumphant return to the comic book scene.

A cannabis superhero? The first cannabis superhero? "To the best of my knowledge," Captain Cannabis creator <u>Verne Andru</u> told Canadian Evergreen.

"My first Captain Cannabis drawing was in 1975 and I've not heard of anything earlier. My government-issued copyright-certificate for the first Captain Cannabis comic-book is dated 4/20, 1977, making it the earliest documented linkage of cannabis to superheroes, comic-books and 4/20.

"I consider it Captain Cannabis's birth certificate."

During the 1960s and 1970s – which brought psychedelic rock, Vietnam, Watergate and Nixon's impeachment – Captain Cannabis is a by-product of time and place.

The adventure has already begun...



"Canadians like me living along the U.S. border were profoundly shaped by southern events."

The '60s also brought Robert Crumb's "Zap" which was the first of the underground comics genre. As a kid, Andru never got into the mainstream superhero comics, finding the stories thin and glorifying violence.

"My take on comics changed when I spotted a stack of undergrounds in the local head-shops in the early '70s," Andru said, discovering a world of unique and interesting stories that had him hooked.

Those headshops were sprouting everywhere and were looked upon as the cultural epicenter for counterculture.

Captain Cannabis Through The Ages

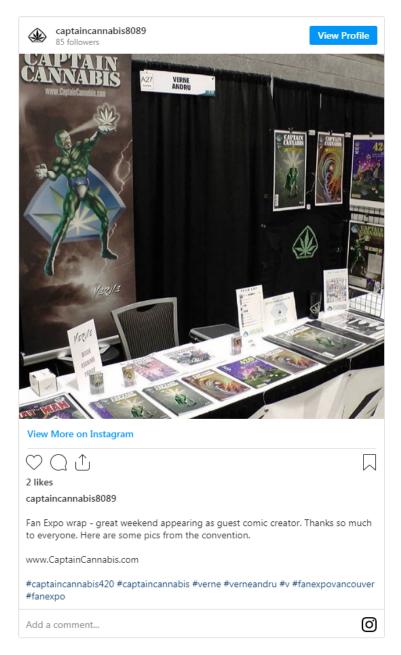


This counterculture helped push the Canadian government into revisiting drug prohibition through a senate committee, and in 1972 released the Le Dain Commission report recommending the decriminalization of cannabis – sparking Andru's inspiration behind Captain Cannabis.

Come 1975 and excitement was buzzing around legalization. It was around then that Andru's affinity to underground comics and professional mentoring resulted in the first drawing of the superhero, which became the cover of Captain Cannabis No. 1.

"With legalization pending I felt the storyline had to be set in a postprohibition world. That meant the traditional cannabis-centric antagonists – narcotic agents and/or police, which made me dig deep to find the right elements to make a sensi-superman stand the test of time, the result being what the Captain Cannabis series is all about," he said.

The storyline is anout how intergalactic weed transforms a lovestruck freeloader into a superhero to save the world from itself.



As for what a cannabis-inspired superhero actually does? He stops people from being mean to one another, making him the first calm and relaxed superhero dedicated to peace, love and understanding.

"Captain Cannabis is anything but your typical Marvel or DC 'superhero' and is by design the antithesis of the glorified violence perpetuated as 'entertainment' by big studios," Andru explained.

In the run up to Canada's cannabis legalization in 2018, Andru restarted the story with the 40th anniversary releases of Captain Cannabis No. 1 and No. 2: *Roll Me Another One* and *Roll Me Another One Just Like The Other One*.



Heading into Cannada's second canniversary, fans new and old will soon be reading a new adventure.

"I'm deep in the production on Captain Cannabis No. 3, which is a piece of the puzzle that starts bridging the original No. 1 and No. 2 with '420,' which will be folded into the Captain Cannabis series making for one big story that spans time and space," Andru said.

"There's a surprise special feature this time around I think is overthe-top cool but that's all I'm going to say about it.

"Captain Cannabis No. 3 is going to be a special release, but no spoilers."

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Captain Cannabis is enjoying a renaissance thanks to legalization







Captain Cannabis, the world's first (confirmed) pot-smoking superhero

What can leap tall buildings in a single bound but can't pass a drug test? What is faster than a speeding bullet, but not before at least 11am? Captain Cannabis, that's who!

The world's first (confirmed) pot-smoking superhero, Captain Cannabis was crafted by Verne Andru in the late 70s. Four decades later, Andru is in pre-production for a Captain Cannabis film, and shopping the digitized, re-released versions of his original series of two Captain Cannabis comics.

For most of us, a cannabis superhero brings to mind the roommate who finds weed in the couch cushions after your stash ran out, a cop who got an urgent call on the radio and left you on the side of the road without searching your car, or the inventor of the *Doritos Locos Tacos*. First published in 1977, Captain Cannabis actually is a bonafide superhero, the alter ego of a weedhead named Hal Lighter, whose girlfriend Marion Jones (not the Olympic track star, she was two in 1977) is abducted. Lighter comes to the rescue after he smokes "<u>mysterious glowing reefer</u>" that turns him into Captain Cannabis.

Other cannabis tales (*How High* comes to mind) deal with the notion of a super weed that imbues an everyday stoner with supernatural talents, but great minds think alike, and Andru is the only one to actually publish those thoughts in a comic book — that we know of.

This week, Andru sat down with <u>El Planteo</u> to bring them up to the minute on the story of Captain Cannabis, and how he is emerging into the light in the age of legalization.

According to Andru, he first started sketching Captain Cannabis in 1975 in the cold of Winnipeg on the prairies of western <u>Canada</u>. He self-published the first issue that year, and finally registered his government copyright for the comic on 4/20/1977.

"Everyone instantly loved him and his future seemed assured," Andru told *El Planteo*, adding that "we had a receptive audience and a distribution network in the headshops."

From the beginning, Andru said he stationed Captain Cannabis in a post-legalization world, so that the villains would stand the test of time.

"I felt that the story had to be situated in a post-prohibition world. That meant that the traditional antagonists (narcotics agents and / or the police) would not be present in the long run. You can do a number of stories about bashing the police, but I don't like gratuitous violence. That made me dig deep to find the right elements and make a sensitive hero who could stand the test of time," Andru said.

Nonetheless, until Canada legalized cannabis in 2018, Andru had trouble finding space at comic book conventions for his work, he told *El Planteo*.

In 2017, on the 40th anniversary of Captain Cannabis, he released digitized and airbrushed versions of the comics original run, which includes the two original comics: Roll Me Another One and Roll Me Another One Just Like the Other One.

But how do you mix the stoney effects of cannabis with the Pow! Braka-Braka! Ka-Bang! violence of comic books? You don't, basically.

"While creating Captain Cannabis I stayed as close to the cannabis culture as possible. People who smoke are somewhat reluctant to fight anything. They are relaxed, lazy, they empty your refrigerator and pass out on your couch, but fighting is too much nuisance," Andru told *El Paseo*.

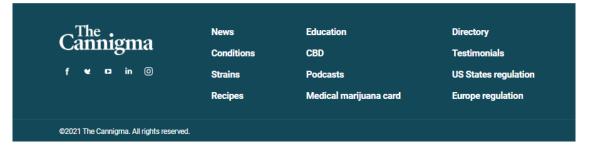
What's his main goal? Captain Cannabis is looking to "prevent people from mistreating each other and being jerks," and "the first superhero dedicated to peace, love and understanding."

He also sounds like the first superhero who will be ripped off by a friend's cousin who asked him to front him the money for a quarter pound, and who will nonetheless decide to let the cousin stay on his couch anyway after he gets evicted. There is no indication in Andru's interview that he is planning any sort of *Dark Knight* anti-hero *noir* turn for Captain Cannabis, who doesn't sound like he's built for that life.

"He's a stoner created in the spirit of underground comics. Captain Cannabis is anything but a typical Marvel or DC Comics hero," Andru is quoted as saying.

And while the coronavirus pandemic has shut down comic book conventions for now, Andru is working on a feature film for Captain Cannabis, which is <u>currently in pre-production</u>. The IMDB page puts the budget at "\$40,000,000 (estimated)," which could be seen as a sign of the level of capital moving into cannabis as a result of legalization. It could also just be a sign of the fact that anyone can edit an IMDB page.

What's next for Captain Cannabis? The future is uncertain, but if there was ever a time that we — cannabis consumers and abstainers alike — needed a superhero, it's now.





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Captain Cannabis No. 2 Buzzes Fan Expo in Time for Legalization

Business Wire

BUSINESS WIRE

September 18, 2018 8:49 PM EDT ② Last Updated September 18, 2018 8:49 PM EDT

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VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Canadian comic book artist Verne Andru will be buzzing crowds at Fan Expo Vancouver with the world wide release of the second of his on-going Captain Cannabis series just in time for Canada to legalize pot.

Fan Expo 2018 is at the Vancouver Convention Centre October 12th to 14th with recreational cannabis set to become legal on October 17th.

"This is Captain Cannabis's second Fan Expo. Fans are fabulous and with legalization literally days away, these are very exciting times," said Verne.

Published by oKee.comX, "Captain Cannabis No. 2" (ISBN 9780973885170) is available online through Chapters Indigo and select stores now.

Visit www.CaptainCannabis.com for the latest.

View source version on businesswire.com:

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Captain Cannabis Celebrates its 40th Anniversary

by David Edmundson | August 15, 2017



Cannabis in mainstream entertainment may be relatively standard today, but not long ago it was relegated to back rooms as part of the counter culture.

From that bygone era sprung the comic book *Captain Cannabis*, which is currently celebrating the 40th anniversary of its first issue, titled "Roll Me Another One." The book follows the whacky adventures of Hal Lighter, a hero tasked with protecting Earth amidst an extradimensional war, while trying to protect the love of his life, Marion lones.

Lighter uses intergalactic weed to transform into the titular Captain Cannabis. Sure it sounds weird, but a lot of comic book powers come from strange places. Shazam, who is an adult aged superhero, got his powers because as a young boy he took a magical subway to a throne room, where a wizened wizard bestowed onto him, not only extraordinary powers, but the ability to go back-and-forth from adult to child when he transforms.

The comic is billed as being "about as far from politically correct as you can get." And it definitely lives up to that moniker. Comic Cook Code be damned, you won't find adventures like this at Marvel or DC. The first issue of the comic, created by Verne

Andru, is being reissued with updated artwork to celebrate the milestone.

The parallels between Captain Cannabis and the Green Lantern are too numerous to be a coincidence. Both heroes derive their powers from a mystical source, both play large roles in intergalactic conflicts they never imagined possible and both are motivated by their sense of right and desire to protect the one they love. Readers can only hope that Lighter is better at protecting his beloved, and that she doesn't share the same fate as Green Lantern's (Kyle Rayner) girlfriend Alexandra DeWitt, who was "fridged." No that's not a typo, and DC Comics would love to pretend it didn't happen. Thankfully though, the internet exists and you can read all about it here.

You can pick up the 40th anniversary collector's edition of Captain Cannabis at CaptainCannabis.com.

Location: ireadculture.com/captain-cannabis-celebrates-its-40th-anniversary/



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PRESS CLIPPING

BUZZ



Holy smoke! It's Captain Cannabis to the rescue!

BY JASEN T. DAVIS



Comic Relief

Captain Cannabis isn't the only THC-powered hero. Back when Chasing Amy hit the screens in 1997, comic fiends were introduced to Bluntman and Chronic, a series based upon Jay and Silent Bob. In the film, Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back, the movie rights to Bluntman and Chronic were sold to Miramax and the titular characters attempt to stop the movie. Throughout it all, we're not sure exactly what their super powers are...

he Captain Cannabis online comic is a series of 13 webisodes presenting the adventures of Halburt Lighter, a.k.a. Captain Cannabis. Equal parts cynical comedy, life-affirming realism and superheroic fantasy, this mind-altering animated comic delivers an enlightening jolt of THC-infused social commentary.

Verne Andru is the creator and writer of Captain Cannabis. His previous experience includes working on the legendary cult classic Rock & Rule, one of the many heavy metal-infused animated films that were so prevalent during the '70s and early '80s. Since then, he's worked with heavyweights such as Hannah-Barbara, Disney and Industrial Light & Magic.

Andru was able to step away from his magnum opus long enough to share a few words with CULTURE about life, the universe and Captain Cannabis.

How would you describe Captain Cannabis to some of our readers who might not have heard of your art?

This is the story of a downand-out roadie named Halburt Lighter. Through a series of misadventures, he and his girlfriend end up in Vancouver, where a spacecraft shows up to help Earth. Okee, the alien on the spacecraft, has a magical plant

he calls "herb." When Hal smokes it, he is able to manifest what he thinks about in real life. I'm eventually going to combine all of the webisodes into a feature film I'm going to call 420.

He reminds me of DC's Green Lantern, with an emphasis on the green, only he can control reality. Isn't the alien also a main character?

I wanted Captain Cannabis to look very professional, so I had to split the project into pieces to keep down costs. The next part of the series will deal with Okee's backstory.

Captain Cannabis has some deep, occult roots. I've noticed a lot of references to **Buddhism, Hinduism, Gnostic** philosophy and Tibetan mysticism.

Yes, the point is that we are a spiritual consciousness stuck in a physical body. Right now, many people just want things for themselves and don't care about anyone else. When you get into the higher realms of spiritualism there is a point where you have to ask, "What is the real truth?" Okee and Hal ask this question.

Okee is meant to illustrate the struggle our consciousness [faces] to rise above the material world. He represents the inherit weakness of man and keeps falling into matter. That's our struggle.

Halburt Lighter, a.k.a. Captain Cannabis, is going through the illumination phase of becoming enlightened. In the first comic, he's just a basic guy who doesn't think beyond his next joint or beer. He goes through a spiritual awakening by smoking pot.

How does Captain Cannabis reflect your personal beliefs about the subject of medical marijuana and the legalization movement? Why is something so useful still illegal?

One thing people don't under-



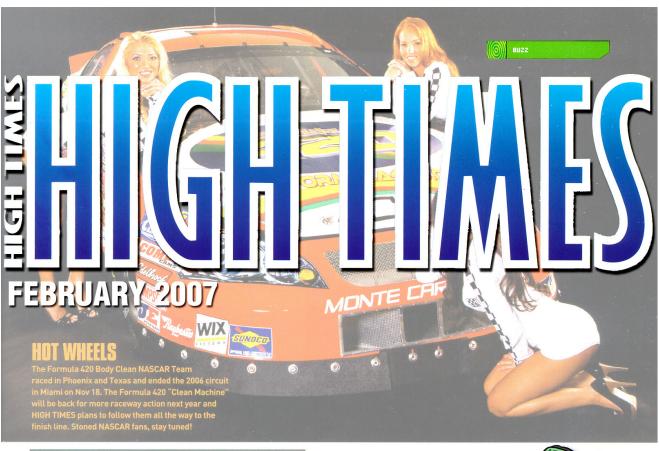
stand is that hemp, the parent plant of marijuana, is the reason that Western culture exits in North America. The first industry in the colonies was building ships, which needed hemp for rope. Because it expanded and became financially viable, this allowed Europeans to come over and invest in America. Back then, hemp and marijuana grew everywhere. It actually required a lot of work to eradicate.

Why is it illegal? Money. You can grow cannabis anywhere. Because of that, you have a product that is uncontrollable. Well, why do we have laws? To control us. The question is; what jurisdiction does the DEA have? It's under the control of the IRS. not the FDA. It has nothing to do with food . . . it's about money.

captaincannabis.com.



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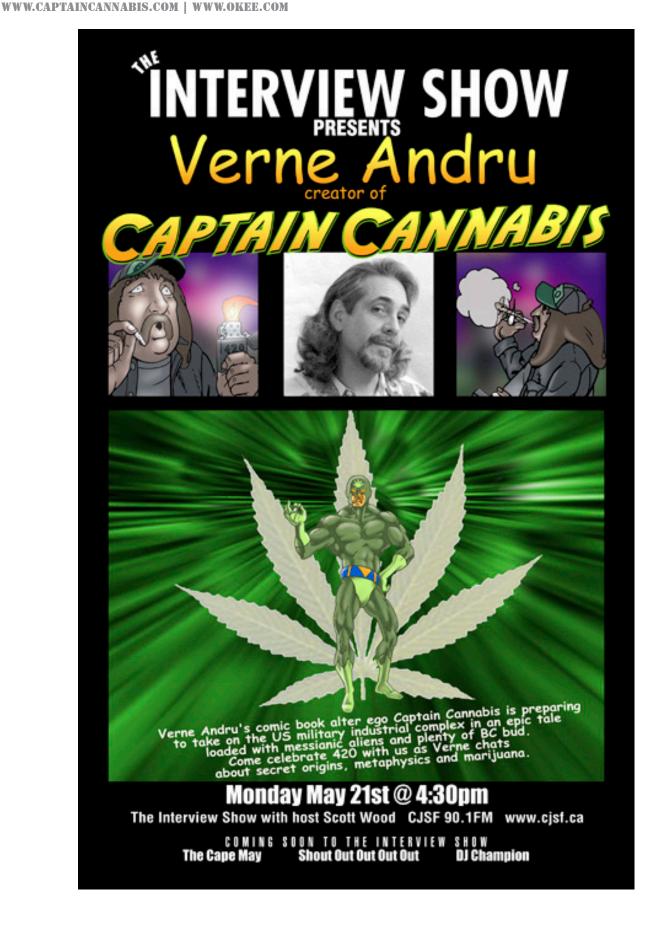




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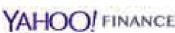












































































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