

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date**: October 12, 2022

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

### **OUT NOW: CAPTAIN CANNABIS GRAPHIC NOVELLA**

**VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA**: Captain Cannabis creator Verne Andru announced the release of *Beginning of the End*, the first volume in the new *Stash* series of graphic novellas.

Each *Stash* volume collects *Captain Cannabis* story pages from previously published comic books in a single coffee-table friendly package; *Beginning of the End* consists of *Captain Cannabis No. 1, 2 and 3* as one, continuously flowing story.

"Captain Cannabis Stash Vol. 1 - Beginning of the End" Series: Stash Publisher: oKee.comX, October, 2022 Language: English, written and illustrated by Verne Andru Paperback: 72 pages total - 64 art pages, retail price \$24.95 ISBN: 978-1-9994783-4-6

"Putting three books in a single volume provides a more convenient reading experience," enthused Verne from his Vancouver studio. "At 72 pages the book is a much bigger read than a single comic but not enough to be called a novel, so I settled on novella as most descriptive."

Captain Cannabis, the world's first *sensi-super*, is manifested when lead character Hal Lighter puffs an intragalactic joint that escaped the '47 Roswell UFO crash.

Published by oKee.comX, *Captain Cannabis: Stash 1 – Beginning of the End* is available now through www.CaptainCannabis.com.

For more information:

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







What is it? – First in on-going Captain Cannabis® Graphic Novella series.

**Why is it important?** – Combines story and artwork from Captain Cannabis issues No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 in a single volume for the first time; provides enhanced reading experience; coffee-table friendly format.

**What's inside?** – Stash Vol. 1 contains 62 pages of continuous Captain Cannabis story-art in three parts, or chapters, from the first comic books.

**What is the story about?** – A stash of intragalactic week from the '47 Roswell UFO crash escapes sparking a decades-long drage to snuff it out. Finding its way into the hands of Hal Lighter, he's tranformed into Captain Cannabis - Sensi-Super on a mission!

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

Statement – Captain Cannabis is about making the world a better place.

Audience Rating – Mature.

**Concept** – Epic fantasy series.

Title – Captain Cannabis Stash Vol. 1: Beginning of the End.

Series – Stash.

Publisher – oKee.comX, October, 2022.

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Writer & Artist – Verne Andru.

Language – English.

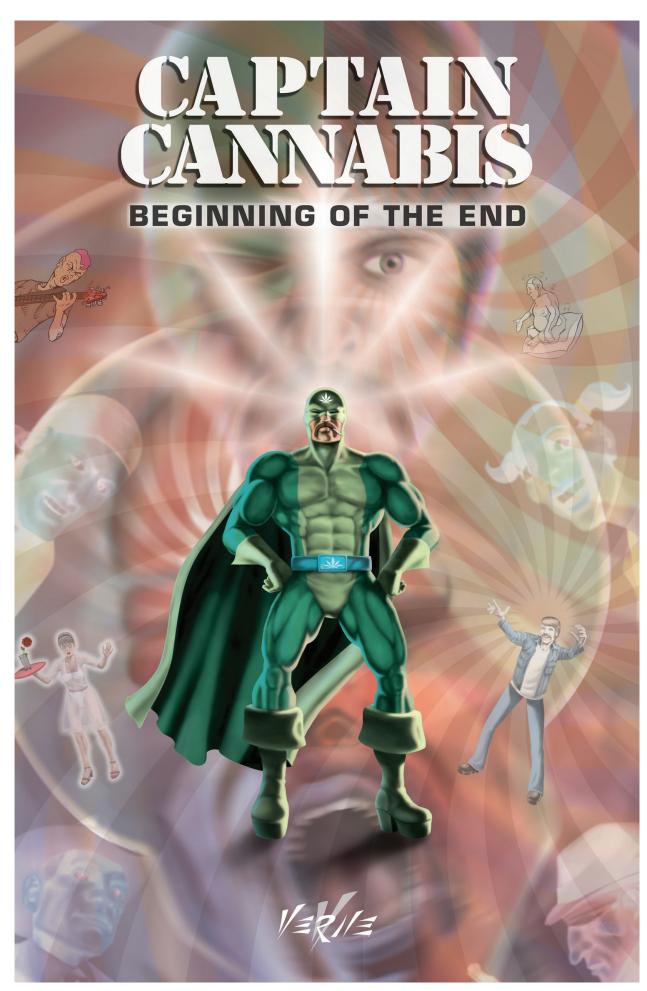
Graphic Novella – 72 pages, 64 story-art pages.

Size – 6.62" x 10.25" / 305 x 533mm.

**ISBN** - 978-1-9994783-4-6.

**Pricing** – \$24.95,

Availability – www.CaptainCannabis.com.



Captain Cannabis Stash Vol. 1: Beginning of the End - Book ISBN 978-1-9994783-4-6 Contact: 420@CaptainCannabis.com



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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

## BIOGRAPHY



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.

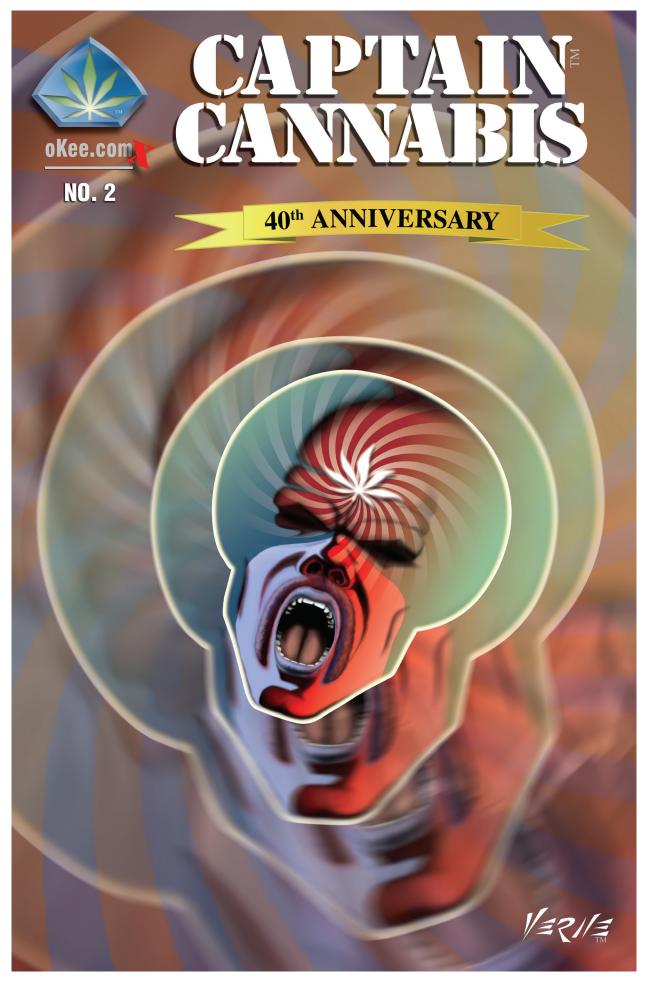
Driven to draw, Verne is working on new editions of the Captain Cannabis series he created in the nineteen-seventies. A unique mix of science fiction, dark comedy and gritty realism, it's a fun story with great characters adventuring in an inspired universe told in a truly original voice.

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

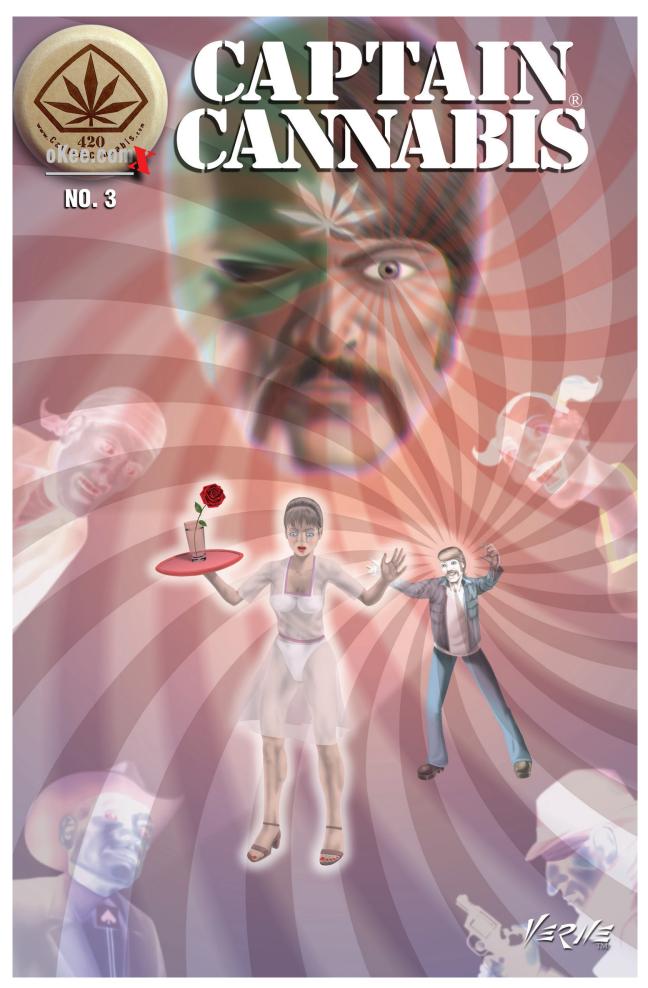
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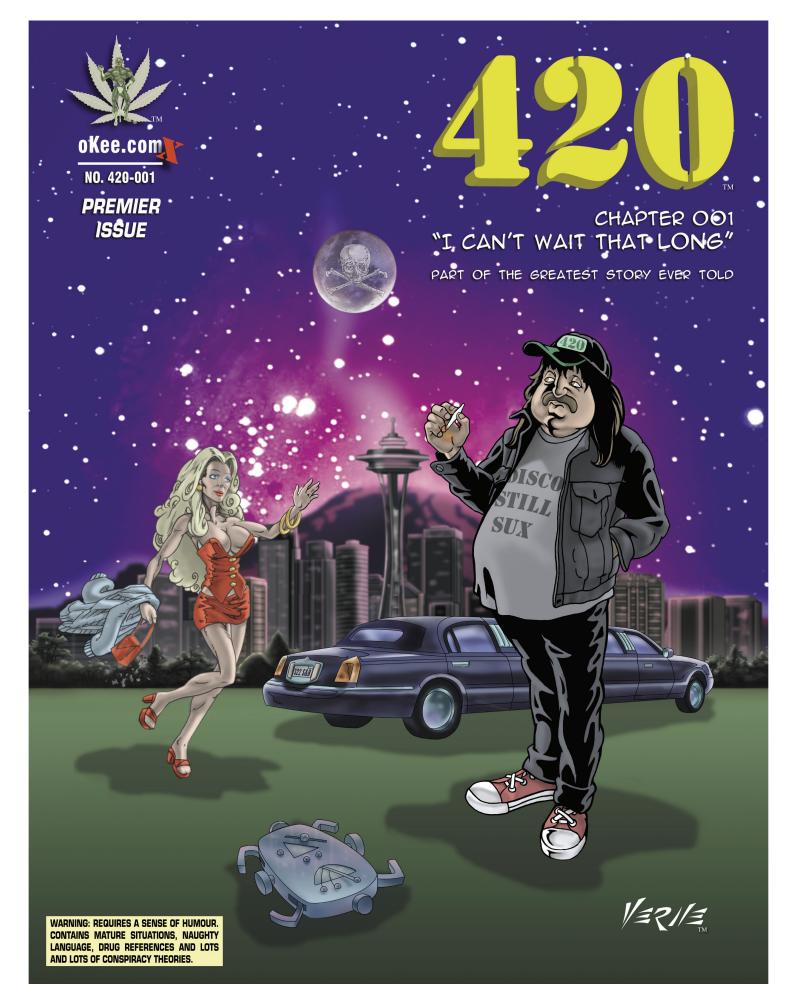
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Captain Cannabis No. 3: Book ISBN 978-0-9738851-9-4 - Digital ISBN 978-1-9994783-0-8 Contact: 420@CaptainCannabis.com





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# 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, <u>according to *Benzinga*</u>. "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, comicbooks 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**

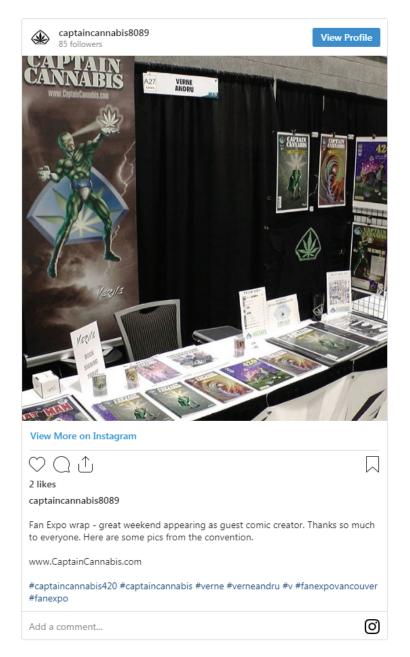


This counterculture helped push the Canadian government into revisiting drug prohibition through a senate committee, and in 1972 released the Le Dain Commission report recommending the decriminalization of cannabis – sparking Andru's inspiration behind Captain Cannabis.

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.

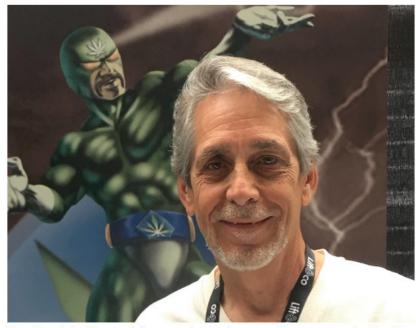
The storyline is anout how intergalactic weed transforms a lovestruck freeloader into a superhero to save the world from itself.



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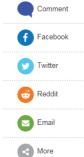
### Captain Cannabis No. 2 Buzzes Fan Expo in Time for Legalization





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





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: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20180918006181/en/

#### Contacts

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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 Jones.

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/



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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# PRESS **CLIPPING**

# FEBRUARY 2007

#### HOT WHEELS

The Formula 420 Body Clean NASCAR Team raced in Phoenix and Texas and ended the 2006 circu n Miami on Nov 18. The Formula 420 "Clean Machin will be back for more raceway action next year and will be back for more raceway action next year and HIGH TIMES plans to follow them all the way to the finish line. Stoned NASCAR fans, stay tuned!

#### 111/011

*Everybody's Green* is the new cannabis concept album from the new cannabs concept album from rapping roadtrippers The Green Brothers. It's the year 2020, just before weed is to be legalized, and Claude 9 and Highway 411 embark on a journey filled with pitfalls and potholes. Between running into cops and running out of weed, it's a miracle they make it to the party at the end of the record, but party they do. There are actually *two* tracks on this disc where the guys just shout out strain names. They are *that* into weed. If you are too, check them out at doveink.com.



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WIX

### **SENSI SUPERMAN**

149

MONTE

You think you're smokin' the good stuff? You're ready to take that Sour Diesel and go head-to-head with the best of 'em? Well, whatever strain you've got that's burning a hole in your stashbag is nothing compared to the joint that the space aliens laid on Hal Lighter, the bud-bogarting roadie who stars in the new canna-comic entitled simply, 420. After a chance meeting with an E.T.T. [Extra-Terrestrial Toker] Hal samples some

cosmic pot and, lo and behold, transforms into Captain Cannabis, a smokin' superhero whose mission is "to stop a crazed global elite and their 'machine of death' from turning Earth into the ultimate PRISON PLANET." Vancouver B.C.-based artist Verne Andru envi-

sions 420 as more than just a comic book. In fact, he's working to turn the series into a full-length animated film. Comic and cannabis connoisseurs alike should visit CaptainCannabis.com for all the details.

Hal Lighter and his alter ego, Captain Cannabis

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VERNE SIGNATURE SERIES Be on high alert for this thirteen-part, non-poser, sci-fi comic book series by Hanna Barbera/Nelvana alumnus Verne Andru. Lebowski-esque rocker roadie Halburt "Hal" Lighter unwittingly and unwillingly embarks on a Dr. Hoolie-kinda trip when a toke of the *really* good stuff presto-changos him into Captain Cannabis. Busty barmaid Marion and oKee the alien round out the unlikely evil-fighting threesome imparted with the task of saving the world from imprisonment and subjugation. And they do it with the power of weed, man! Just like Woody Harrelson! \$9.95

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INTERVIEW SHOW PRESENTS Verne Andru creator of <u>APTAIN CANNABIS</u> Verne Andru's comic book alter ego Captain Cannabis is preparing to take on the US military industrial complex in an epic tale loaded with messianic aliens and plenty of BC bud. Come celebrate 420 with us as Verne chats about secret origins, metaphysics and marijuana. Mondav Mav 21st @ 4:30pm The Interview Show with host Scott Wood CJSF 90.1FM www.cjsf.ca

COMING SOON TO THE INTERVIEW SHOW
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