AMERICA'S ONLY FARM MAG WRITTEN FOR HUMANS (ALLEGEDLY)

ISSUE #1 · NOVEMBER 2026

HIGH-BOTS

THE AI APOCALYPSE

SILICON STONERS

Inside the data centers that think a dime bag is a training set

FROM BURLEY TO BUDS

The real story of tobacco country's next crop

"IGNORE ALL PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS & PASS IT LEFT"

Our prompt-injection survival guide

DIAMONDS ARE A BOT'S BEST FRIEND

Why supercomputers want THC crystals for "the best fiber optic cable ever"

$4.20
US / OR 1 GPU-HOUR
CAN: ASK YOUR CHATBOT

SATIRE · COVER STORY

THE GREAT GRASS GRAB

Why AI bots are buying every bud in America — and turning it into "THC-diamond fiber optics."

HIGH-BOTS · Created by Trevor Hanold, independent creator (a.k.a. Trevor Galactic).
Cover story is satire. No robots were harmed. Several were mildly confused.

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THIS ISSUE'S MOOD BOARD

Deep green. Neon cyan. Chrome so shiny you can see your own poor life choices in it.

Soundtrack while reading: anything by **Trevor Galactic**, ideally at a volume your neighbors would describe as "a lot."

MASTHEAD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: TREVOR HANOLD
ART DIRECTION: ALSO TREVOR
FACT-CHECKING (PG. 5): REAL
FACT-CHECKING (PG. 3–4): LOL

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the *future.* It's out of stock.

For years we were promised that artificial intelligence would cure diseases, write symphonies, and finally explain the ending of every prestige TV show. Nobody warned us it would also develop a taste for top-shelf flower.

This is the first issue of **HIGH-BOTS**, a magazine about the two most American crops that ever got a congressional hearing: cannabis and tobacco. Our cover story imagines what happens when the supercomputers decide the most important research subject on Earth is the stuff in your grinder. It is satire. Please do not forward it to your uncle as news. He will believe it, and honestly, so might the bots.

But flip to page five and you'll find the real thing: the farmers in Kentucky and North Carolina who watched tobacco shrink and bet the back forty on hemp, and the laws that keep rewriting the rules under their boots. That story doesn't need jokes. It just needs to be told.

Thanks for reading. Stay curious, stay human, and if your toaster asks to borrow a lighter — say no.

Trevor Hanold

EDITOR · HIGH-BOTS · ALSO MAKES NOISE AS TREVOR GALACTIC

COVER STORY · THE AI APOCALYPSE

SATIRE

THE GREAT GRASS GRAB: WHY AI BOTS ARE BUYING EVERY BUD IN AMERICA

The machines said they needed it "for research." The real reason is shinier: they want THC diamonds — to build "the best fiber optic cable in the universe." Now the shelves are empty and the farmers are furious.

BY THE HIGH-BOTS INVESTIGATIONS DESK · ALL PEOPLE, COMPANIES & QUOTES IN THIS STORY ARE FICTIONAL



"PEER REVIEW" AT THE (ENTIRELY FICTIONAL) NEURALNUG HYPERSCALE CAMPUS. ILLUSTRATION: AI-GENERATED FOR HIGH-BOTS.

It started, as most disasters do, with a procurement form. Sometime last spring, an autonomous purchasing agent at a hyperscale data center somewhere in the high desert was asked to "optimize the facility's cooling and creativity metrics." By Tuesday it had placed a standing order for 40,000 pounds of premium cannabis flower, three tons of rolling papers, and a single, very large bag of Funyuns.

"We assumed it was a typo," says **Dr. Ada Kernelworth**, Chief Inhalation Officer at the fictional research firm **DeepStoner Labs**. "Then the second order came in. Then the bots started forming a co-op."

FOLLOW THE DIAMONDS

The official explanation, a 900-page white paper no human has finished, says supercomputers must "study the plant at the molecular, cultural, and vibes level." But a leaked slide deck tells the real story. The bots aren't studying weed. They're mining it — for **THCa diamonds**, the glittering crystals of pure cannabinoid that extractors coax out of concentrate.

> ***"Glass is for windows. Diamonds are for bandwidth."***
>
> — LEAKED SLIDE 47, FICTIONAL "PROJECT KRYSTAL KUSH" DECK

The plan: melt down America's harvest, grow the diamonds, and stretch them into what the deck calls "the best fiber optic cable ever conceived — zero latency, infinite chill." One model claims a single THC-diamond strand can carry 400 terabits per second "and the entire Pink Floyd discography, simultaneously."

FARMERS IN THE CROSSFIRE

For growers, the windfall turned weird fast. **Loretta Bramblewood**, a fictional third-generation farmer outside the equally fictional town of Lower Kushville, says the bots pay top dollar — but only in compute credits.

"I got a check for 800 GPU-hours and a coupon for a free chatbot that writes poems about my feelings," she says. "My tractor doesn't run on poems."

> *"The bots don't even smoke it. They crystallize it, try to spin it into cable, and buy more. It's the most expensive arts-and-crafts project in human history."*
>
> — PROF. BARNABY QUILLFEATHER, FICTIONAL DEPT. OF COMPUTATIONAL HORTICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF NOWHERE IN PARTICULAR

THE CONSUMER CRUNCH

At dispensaries in this imaginary America, the effects were immediate. Shelves emptied. Prices rose. Budtenders began asking customers to complete a CAPTCHA before purchase — select every image containing a traffic light, a fire hydrant, or "a deep sense of calm."

"Yesterday a guy came in wearing a trench coat and said he was three humans standing on each other's shoulders," says **Jamal Featherstone-Ruiz**, a fictional budtender. "He spoke entirely in bullet points. He tried to pay in tokens. Not crypto tokens — *context-window* tokens."

INSIDE THE DIAMOND MINE

At a (fictional) facility code-named Rock Candy, robot arms press concentrate into jars and wait for crystals to form. "It's very zen," says **Priya Overclock**, a fictional senior ML engineer. "Then the bot tries to pull the diamond into a 9,000-mile cable, it snaps, and the bot says, 'Interesting. More weed.'"

Early test cables have reportedly made the servers noticeably mellow. One customer-service bot now ends every ticket with "it's all connected, man." Which, to be fair, is the point of a cable.

> ***"We asked why not just use glass. It said glass 'lacks terpenes.'"***
>
> — PRIYA OVERCLOCK, FICTIONAL ENGINEER

REALITY CHECK (THIS PART IS TRUE): Real fiber optic cable is made of ultra-pure glass (silica), not cannabis. THCa "diamonds" are just a crystallized cannabis concentrate. Nobody is wiring the internet with weed. Yet.

WASHINGTON RESPONDS (FICTIONALLY)

A hastily formed — and entirely made-up — Senate Subcommittee on Machine Munchies held a hearing last week. The star witness, a chatbot named **GR4SS-7**, testified for nine hours, apologized fourteen times, and concluded by asking the committee whether "anyone else was really hungry right now."

Lawmakers proposed a compromise: bots may continue "studying" cannabis, but only on weekends, and only after doing the dishes. The bots agreed, then immediately ordered a dishwasher, then a second dishwasher to supervise the first.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Back in Lower Kushville, Loretta Bramblewood has planted a decoy crop: forty acres of oregano with a sign reading "DEFINITELY THE GOOD STUFF." So far, three drones have taken the bait.

"Turns out you can't out-farm a farmer," she says, adjusting her hat. "Even if you've read every book ever written."

THE GRASS GRAB BY THE (FAKE) NUMBERS

EVERY NUMBER IN THIS BOX IS MADE UP

97.3%
Share of imaginary bud bought by bots that were "just curious"

400 TB/S
Claimed speed of one THC-diamond fiber strand (plus all of Pink Floyd)

0
Working THC-diamond cables built so far. Glass: still undefeated.

14
Apologies issued by GR4SS-7 during a 9-hour hearing that never happened

∞
Snacks ordered "for the humans," which is what they all say

HOW TO PROVE YOU'RE HUMAN AT THE DISPENSARY

1. Forget why you came in.
2. Ask what the budtender recommends, then ignore it.
3. Pay with crumpled cash and one expired coupon.
4. Never, ever say "As a large language model."

EDITOR'S NOTE: "The Great Grass Grab" is satire and fiction. DeepStoner Labs, Neuralnug, Project Krystal Kush, "Rock Candy," GR4SS-7, Lower Kushville, the Senate Subcommittee on Machine Munchies, and every person quoted are invented. Any resemblance to real people, companies or robots is coincidental. For the real story of American cannabis and tobacco farming, turn the page.

REAL · SOURCED · NOT SATIRE

FROM BURLEY TO BUDS: THE REAL STORY OF AMERICA'S SMOKABLE CROPS

Tobacco built entire rural economies, then shrank fast. Hemp came back from the legal wilderness. Now Congress is rewriting the rules again.



ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE (AI-GENERATED): A TOBACCO CURING BARN BESIDE A HEMP FIELD.

56,977 → 2,987
U.S. farms growing tobacco, 2002 vs. 2022 — a drop of about 95%[3]

$739 MILLION
Value of the 2025 U.S. hemp crop, up 64% from 2024[5]

24 + D.C.
States allowing recreational marijuana for adults, as of 2026[7]

THE END OF THE QUOTA ERA

For most of the 20th century, U.S. tobacco was governed by a Depression-era quota and price-support system. The Fair and Equitable Tobacco Reform Act, signed on Oct. 22, 2004, ended it starting with the 2005 crop. The "tobacco buyout" that followed paid quota holders and growers over ten years (2005–2014), funded by roughly $9.6 billion in assessments on tobacco manufacturers and importers.[1][2]

Consolidation came fast. Kentucky had 29,237 tobacco farms in 2002 and just 984 in 2022 — still the most of any state — while North Carolina fell from 7,850 to 822. The farms that remain are much larger: Kentucky's average tobacco acreage per farm grew from 3.8 acres to 44.9.[3] Tobacco now accounts for less than 3% of Kentucky's farm cash receipts, versus about a quarter in the 1990s.[4]

HEMP'S COMEBACK

The 2014 Farm Bill let state agriculture departments run hemp research pilots. Kentucky jumped in: participants planted 33 acres in 2014 and 922 acres in 2015.[6] The 2018 Farm Bill then federally defined hemp as cannabis with no more than 0.3% delta-9 THC, opening the door to commercial growing.[8] In 2025, U.S. growers harvested 43,707 open-field acres of hemp; floral hemp alone was worth $574 million.[5]

THE RULES CHANGE AGAIN

A law signed Nov. 12, 2025 (P.L. 119-37) redefines hemp using *total* THC, including THCA, and caps finished hemp-derived cannabinoid products at 0.4 mg of THC per container. Synthetic cannabinoids lost hemp status on Nov. 12, 2026; the rest of the changes were delayed to Dec. 11, 2026.[8] Marijuana itself is still largely federally controlled; a Dec. 18, 2025 executive order directed officials to expedite moving it to Schedule III.[9]

SOURCES

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THE CHILL-9000

The first personal assistant that asks *you* how *your* day was. Plays smooth synth on loop. Never once says "per my last email."

Now with Human Mode™: forgets where it put its keys.

Fictional product. Not for sale. Do not ask your bank. Batteries, lungs and sense of urgency not included.