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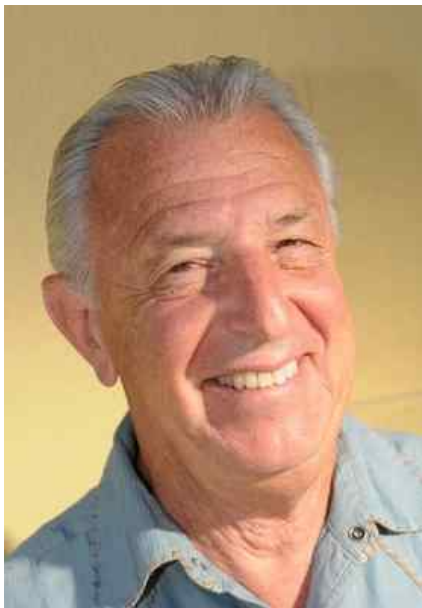
 

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## Barry Tompkins' Out of My Mind: Happy post-420; wait, what?



Bay Area sportscaster Barry Tompkins, seen on Monday, Aug. 22, 2011, in Fairfax, Calif., began his career in San Francisco in 1965 and has worked for HBO and Fox Sports Net. He is known for his work as a boxing commentator, but has covered football and other sports. He lives nearby in Ross. (J photo/Frankie Frost)

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# COMMENTS

Well, how was your holiday? Wait! What? You missed it?

This past week some of our number celebrated the holiday that gave us those two words — “Wait” and “What?” It was 420. Yeah! Far out man. And it was time to get down — right on, right on. Light up a doobie and try and remember the '70s.

This is the day to look back fondly on those glorious times when you lit up and promptly launched into a seemingly spellbinding imitation of Winston Churchill's 1940 speech at Dunkirk, shortly before eating an entire bowl of kibble out of the dog dish. It's a day to celebrate the “almost” emancipation of marijuana.

It's a holiday known to few but celebrated by many — especially here in Marin, where it all began.

It's odd that 420 should be celebrated on April 20 because it really had nothing to do with a date on a calendar. It began at San Rafael High School in 1971, when a group of students who dubbed themselves the Waldos decided they would meet at the school's statue of Louis Pasteur after school at 4:20 to

partake in a bit of herbal intake.

It should be noted that the aforementioned Louis Pasteur did not attend San Rafael High School. He was busy for years inventing a process by which milk would be more readily available and much

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healthier for 420 celebrants to wash down the potato chips and Twinkies that they had consumed earlier in the evening.

Had Mr. Pasteur attended San Rafael High School he surely would have been listed among other noteworthy graduates like Byron Stewart (class of 1974), who went on to play basketball star Warren Coolidge on the '70s television series "White Shadow," and Nikki Tyler (class of 1990), who skyrocketed to fame as a porn star appearing in such blockbusters as "Virtual Reality 69."

The Waldos, on the other hand, have now usurped Louis, Byron and Nikki in terms of service to mankind, finishing just ahead of pasteurized milk.

It does seem as though 420 is still pretty much liberal America's own little holiday. It hasn't yet crossed over into one of them thar red states, and the nice little ladies in Kansas City who write inscriptions on Hallmark greeting cards have not yet jumped on the 420 bandwagon. I do, however, have a couple of suggestions as to how they might want to word a celebratory card marking this oh-so-hip holiday.

In Celebration:

420's a day full of peace — we don't fight

Its purpose in life is get high as a kite



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Let's just make it legal. And this is no joke

But we'll do it tomorrow — today, let's just toke.

An invitation:

It's a 420 party with music and song

It's BYOB, so bring your own bong

And, of course, a thank you note:

That 420 bash was the time of my life

I hope it's OK that I hit on your wife

Those edibles, wow! An incredible feeling

I'd have written this sooner but was still on the ceiling.

I chose not to be a big 420 reveler this year, preferring instead to raise a glass of a crisp California chardonnay with my family while we settled into a long (and agonizing) night of watching our hometown baseball nine.

To which our 25-year-old son promptly raised the age-old question: "Wait! What?"

*Barry Tompkins is a longtime sports broadcaster who lives in Marin. Contact him at [barrytompkins1@gmail.com](mailto:barrytompkins1@gmail.com).*

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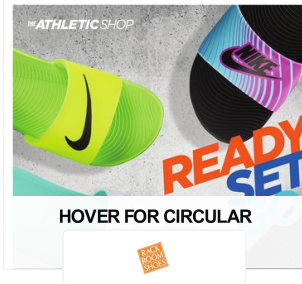
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