

'R' WE READY

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Belatedly, and with a thin "environmentalist" moral advantage, the Deep County scammers hope to hook their star to a resurrected Marijuana economy of which it is a main beneficiary. The abatement process that the County has instigated under Ordinance 2576 is viciously heedless of the agricultural economy we country people (even me) feel in our bones. But no matter. Grab the opportunity, certainly, to give SoHum a good ethnic cleansing, scaring out the small hippy farmers with irrational, senseless, but always fee oriented policies. After all, urban or not, the majority of the Supes, at the least, have filled their pockets with marijuana profits, from Canadian, Bulgarian, Hippy or maybe even Old Settler profiteers. They know **the money is out there.** A slight re-arrangement of the economy, in favor of the infamous Big Growers will put money back in their campaign chests, if not the County's tax coffers. Their favored speculators will flourish in a panicked real estate market, picking up little farms for a song.

The Eureka urbanists had a plan like that in 1970. Break up the failed ranches and timber lands into 20 or 30 little 20 acre parcels, sell them to the desperate urban refugees for a cool half million or so in cash flow, then apply impossible urban standards on the hippies' would-be country lifestyles, force them out **and then resell** - ad infinitum. We beat them on their own ground but their dream of a cornucopia of fees and profits has never died. The Deep County exists to serve FIRE - the Financiers, Insurance and Real Estate agents. The whole corrupt FIRE/Deep County gang lost big chances to make a killing when courts' wouldn't convict for "unpermitted" county housing violations and they never forgot it. The image of the profits and fees that could have been made still hangs in the air like - smoke! And where there is smoke you know there's FIRE.

And where there is FIRE there is a FIRE SALE. Happening today thanks to Ordinance 2576! What can be said except Hallelujah, God is Great, Holy Shit, or whatever your prayer of triumph consists of. Every nickel lost will return now as a dollar. Every item in the lives of us shiftless hippies can now be paid for with fees and profits - for the right people - Estelle's people, Rex Bohn's people, Virginia Bass' people.

The lingering environmental counter-cultural conscience is not the County's only moral support here. I communicate with "old settlers" who *still* want to see Marijuana and Those People Gone. Jeff Sessions' portrait is on a lot of walls. Marijuana is *still* a demon weed for enough boozers and teetotalers to make this a good basis to justify the attacks of FIRE and the Deep County. Punishing the dope smoking Hippies is long overdue.

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Barring another uprising like United Stand and CLMP and the Counter-cultural itself, the odds are against those of us who came here to stay. "Aqui estamos y nos quedamos!" How to pull that off? We have no Community worth a damn right now. EPIC followed the money out of here. The Peace Movement, the Justice Movement, the Women's Movement, the Environmental Movement - these are merely a loud whine heard after Democracy Now is concluded. Shit, you can listen to her eight times a day on 4 public radio stations (KMUD, KHSU, Radio Bilingue and Anderson Valley) and 4 times a day on cable. I cry at least once during every show. What more is there to do?

Our only defense is solidarity in rebuilding our community. We have to begin by admitting that everybody who criticizes us is right. We haven't just let things slide, we have let go completely. A narcissist in the White House is the proper Symbol for us because we have accepted the capitalist myth that each of us can go it alone. If we want to really resist it isn't by allying with the corporate democrats and republicans, or even by replacing adversarial County functionaries. We need to step into the moral vacuum created by 38 years of the Age of Reagan and its trickle down Plutonomy, as City Bank calls our economy. The Ayn Randian pop psychology that warns us against *Enabling* others is over, or we are.

The good news for me personally is that nothing has made my ersatz Anarchism look really more reasonable than has this stupid Abatement Ordinance. Legalization, as any real Anarchist and most Counter-Cultural Hippies can tell you, is a synonym for Regulation and hence Criminalization. Just look how the urbanized "elite" has turned a Civil Nuisance into a Death Sentence. It prompts me to suggest to SoHum non-Anarchists, that there is one government we can all agree we don't need - the fucking County.

How do we get rid of this plague? Repeal the ordinance and Rebate the stolen fees is a good start!! That takes political clout. Do we have it and will it solve our deeper problem of lack of Community? Yes we do but no it won't. I think we need as a Community to step into the moral vacuum. We cannot allow our environmental consciences, no matter how vestigial, to be violated. WE must take responsibility for the damage that our money driven industry has caused. Google earth speaks truth but *face-to-face- book* rules. We need some CLMP-like, some United Stand-like, some Earth First-like intervention by a People Driven Permit Process to replace the County by doing what it doesn't - seeking consensus among our neighbors.

In every watershed and neighborhood bedeviled or threatened by Abatement and the Deep County, there are judicious, ethical, friendly, environmentally conscious neighbors. We can empower these fellow citizens, so to speak, by giving them

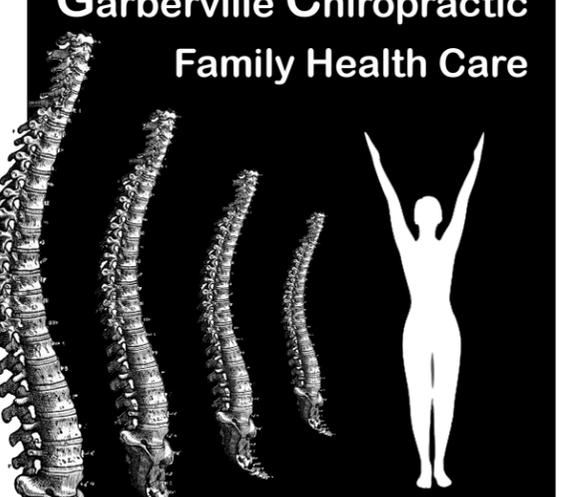
Watershed/Neighborhood Power to come onto our Abated or Threatened Land to give us homesteaders a Clean Bill of Health. The excuses of environmental damage that the forces of money and coercion use for their nefarious purposes can be set to rest by a **Community Certification** - that the land is held sacred, the water inviolable, the air breathable and the fire next time, not now. The Certification carries with it the promise of defense in any appropriate venue by Supportive People from our own Communities. Get the County out of SoHum by the one means that will be effective - a Community united against the County's trespassing by doing right what the County is doing wrong.

In the process we must be firm in defending what has always been the physical and spiritual core of our culture - our Goddess Sativa, a food and a medicine which must no longer be disrespected.

We are not willing to be punished for the sin of marijuana when it is our virtue.

-ThePeoplesWhistle aka Paul Encimer

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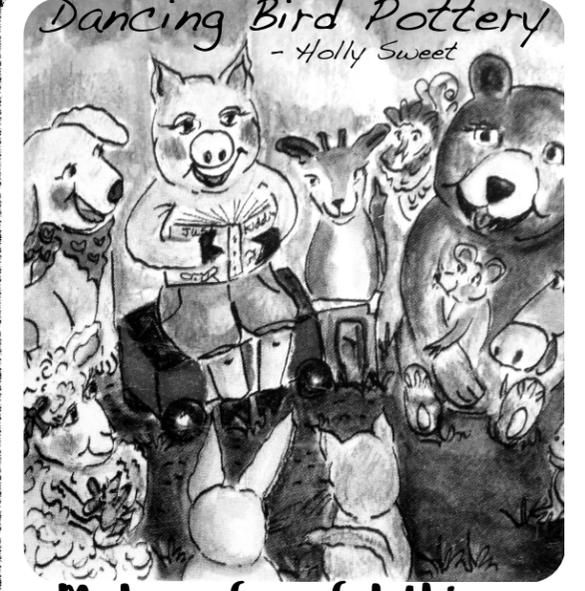
The lies I used to know

I miss them, the safe stories
you couldn't fall
out of those happy endings
legs tucked under
The doors open to sunlight
& cornered gardens

brick paths, lilac & stinking privet
those transparent organdy kisses
I need a novel with no last pages.
Here was that truth
of rage, the burning sofa
cigarette smoke nights
my whiskeyed dad & Cinderella dancing
past dying. I was never sad.

-Kathy Epling

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