

THE REBIRTH OF THE MISSION TO CARE

I hatched the idea of harassing the police state mentality of Measure Z, by offering something to that fraud that would *actually* enhance the security of my SoHum community. My partner Kathy Epling re-baptized my rather passive aggressive offering with a larger vision she dubbed *The Respite Center* – a stable place which would be a sanctuary for the at risk and vulnerable proliferating on the streets of SoHum and America. **No go.** Now Debra Carey has taken this vision to the very heart of Nonprofit-dom and has been refused. **SoHum? Where's that?**

Now we have it anyhow: *The Epling-Hurst Respite Center.* We are doing it on our own and we want you in on it too. We have rented the building on Briceland Road across from Redway Feed. It had been a Church, one of the many dead and dying Churches which were – and are – more concerned with assuring the damned of their place in hell than in providing an example of a Gospel led life. Heaven is for the Saved only and the ticket is on the numbers of your bank account. Ask the followers of Reagan and his disciple, Trump. This *Sharia Christianity* is the perfect state religion of Trump which has nothing to do with the power of "God's love." It is a scheme for exclusion

where Hell, thankgod, is still functioning overtime; but it is in the street now, reserved to provide suffering for the poor, the helpless, the traumatized. No problem here: the Sharia Calvinists reject – on principle – good works in favor of a faith devoid of actions where Jesus is not a living presence but a sort of Wizard of Oz, floating on a cloud and armed with thunderbolts to punished the enemies of their domestic Sharia .

Well, the Respite Center could be called Gospel Action: you know, feed, clothe, heal, minister. But none of us really wants to hang the dead weight of Christianity around our necks. If anything we are postChristian and if we minister with religious authority it is the mockish authority given to us by the old sixties Universal Life Church where all members are ministers! We are quite at home therefore with Buddhism's mission to save all sentient beings. That's a religion that's ecological enough for what's coming down the road.

But we do respect our building's old namesake: St. Andrew. He was a hip guy right enough, a follower of John the Baptist and the first to recognize Jesus for the conduit of love that he was. St. Andrew brought along that powerhouse



of a brother, St. Peter. The game was afoot. And us CHILLers are still in it: unafraid to call on the spirit in this time of need. You know the drill – our backs are against the wall as a community, but the spirit – and we hope Kathy – has our backs. We want your backing now.

Support the Respite Center, contact Debra Carey at povertysnotacrime@yahoo.com or me, Paul Encimer at encimer@hotmail.com

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Cannabis Lawyer and Advocate Eugene "ED" Denson explains this issue extensively in his must-read letter recently given to the County Council and Board of Supervisors for Humboldt County (view entire letter here-link). ED explains,

*"When the voters passed Measure S they imposed a tax on "each person" who has a permit... Ordinance 2575 changed the taxable person from the cultivator to the property owner ... The voters did not vote to tax the property owners... tax bills will be an unpleasant surprise for property owners who have leased their land to persons who have applied for permits... The alterations to the basis for the tax, and the person who must pay it, have effectively created a new tax in place of the Measure S tax... The revision of the ordinance also increases the amount of the tax.... The voters have not approved this new tax, and therefore it is a violation of Government Code section 53723, that prohibits the County from levying a general tax without approval by a majority of the voters. **No Cultivator is in Compliance with Federal Law.** ... Because of the language ... requiring an activity being in compliance with federal law and regulation in order to be defined as commercial marijuana cultivation or for the tax to begin to accrue; there is almost certainly no person or property owner in Humboldt County who owes any tax under either version of the Measure S ordinances..."*

5. "Appalling" "industry interest" "backroom deal" changed the 1 Acre Cap to unlimited grow size. The county stabbed growers and consequentially the whole community in the back by becoming prey to undisclosed "industry interests" and cutting the 1 acre cap for cultivation after taking money from farmers under completely different circumstances. This promises to bury all farmers eventually. Even our own CA State Senator McGuire can see through the lies and our being sold out by government calling it "appalling" in an interview with LOCO, he states,

"Someone's been whispering in the ears of California Department of Food and Ag. It's a last-minute change to the draft rules, and no one knows where it came from. It came out of left field. And it's appalling. We have upended every promise that was made. This is the worst part of politics. This reeks of a smoke-filled backroom deal, and it's appalling. My belief is this is why Americans are frustrated with our governmental system – because these last-minute backroom deals are consummated."

One longtime once-larger farmer who bought-in to legalization and followed all the rules explained with a sarcastic tone, "Yeah, when I spent my life

savings to go legal, it was under the premise that the government would maintain the cap on production size to 1 acre so I could hope to stay competitive. Now I have to swallow the fact that I just wasted over 100k for a permit, which will likely never pay itself off, while I watch any major corporations move in, who could very easily wipe us all off the map."

Imagine investing your entire life savings to do business with the government, (your enemy, you know, last year) to pay taxes for wars you are staunchly against, to function in capitalist model which you are likely also against, all under the premise that you would be "protected by your government with caps on production size of other permits" which "regulate the market." To then find out your trusty politicians sold you out and so you are now up against major industry and all other corporations. This is a HUGE deal.

6. The government rarely brings sustainability to any industry, but rather an influx of environmental degradation fueled by profit motivations. This is the most shocking rouse I see cultivators falling for today- that the government would protect them and the planet from the "bad growers." The reality is that it is yet to be determined, whether they deem you one of them. In addition to this irony, regulation always ends the same way, since the very first regulatory industry began in the states for railroads, then to big pharma, banking and tobacco etc.- the big money interests in that industry wind up doing all the regulating. Big pharma spends upwards of 300 billion annually on lobbying, how is that impacting pharmaceutical overdose, addiction and abuse? This too will exacerbate environmental damage, as is always the case throughout time. Sings of this lay plainly in the 1 acre cap change, the taxes being owed regardless of cultivation activities (pushing people to grow every year instead of intermittently), and the fact that the county has not deemed measuring environmental effects of legalization at all, proving their *actual* interests do not reside in protecting the land.

ED explains, *"People who are trying to get licenses spent several million dollars of their own money for bio-remediation, cleaning up the land and correcting problems, and when I asked the water board if anyone was measuring the effect this had on the streams and the fisheries, which is the reason it's all being done, and the answer in short was- no. Adonna White said they had metrics, which I believe means they were measuring what is written on the application, but that's not the same thing as getting in the water and seeing if the temperature has changed."*

In 2018 remember while most in our community suffers in and out of industry due to the collapse of the main source of revenue in Humboldt County, there are some who are making out huge and that

is salivating county officials and police, not surprisingly, the orchestrators of the drug war and it's most recent manifested chaos of "the war on drugs," or rather "the war on the poor." Weed For Warriors President Sean Kiernan, makes an industry gu-estimation based on his lifetime of experience in the military, in addition to big pharma board rooms, now to organizing around freely giving weed to those most in need including veterans and other victims of violence,

"Whole plant cannabis will now become a recreational vice, that they [government] can tax the shit out of. Now that they are taxing the shit out of it, what happens? Prices go through the roof, and that means you price out the sick the disabled, the poor the working classes- They cant afford to medicate at a dispensary. My vets go through over 1/8th [a pound] of flower every day easily. So now what do those people do who are most vulnerable in our society? They go to black market or they go without. If they go without, that means suicides go up, overdoses go up, because the only acceptable alternative for that escape or need pain relief or self medication is are the other a-listed drugs by big pharma. So you've got a predatory policy that has legalized cannabis for upper middle class trust-fund kids, and yet you've kept prohibition for poor and needy people so the police can justify much of what they do. Prohibitions create economies; police, politicians and their financiers know this very well. The war on drugs is and always has been a war against the poor."

This may be news to you but the government lies, legalization is a farce, it is but more criminalization and provides economic hurdles for those who need it. It puts an organic product and the entire community in an unnatural environment, a government controlled capitalist market, where sure some are legitimized but how many, who exactly, and at what cost to the community? I do not share this story to rain on your legalization parade oh no; I write today because I want to warn other states that are considering legalization, to stop, JUST STOP. Decriminalize, or at the very most set up a medical program akin to CA Prop 215 and leave it at that. Legalization is criminalization in a fancy corporate plastic package. Do not be fooled like CA and other states were. As I said years ago, Bob Marley is undoubtedly rolling in his grave to change the lyrics to **"decriminalize it."**



-Shakti