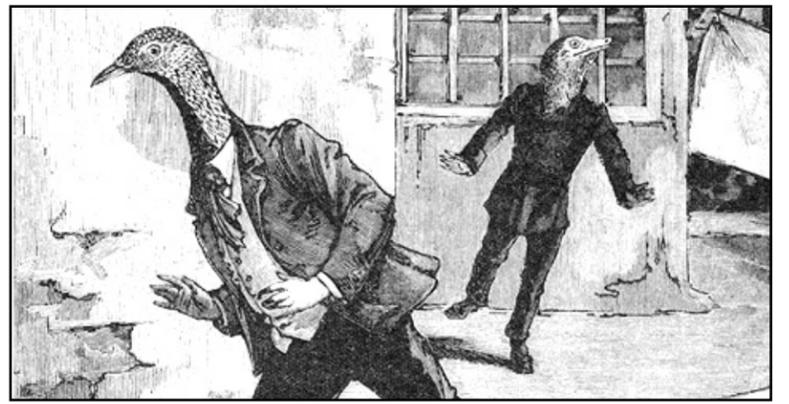


FREE

#178.1 January, A New Year Begins: 2018



## PROHIBITION vs. LEGALIZATION: Devil Weed meets Corporate Cannabis

It is that time of year again... or is it? Happenings in Humboldt County today, especially for farmers, are hardly recognizable. Even for non-farmers there certainly must be a noticeable stench in the air. Have you noticed it too? You can see it in the long change machine and DMV lines, the sticky-armed workers, and in their contagious anxiousness to "get paid and get the fuck out." You can see in temporary car registration tags, or in the slumped shoulders inside grow-dozers, the angry malnourished pits, and in the non-profits operating in the red, and the ongoing question on most minds-what will become of our community in the wake of this Prop. 64 disaster?

It is officially 2018 and as the last season of what I call the once last remaining "free (from government control) market" in CA comes to a close, one might sense a fleeting cultural essence in the air this year. As capitalists conquer what's left in the rubble of the back to the land culture, it seems as if The People have lost some great-unnamed war to looming corporate and political interests. **Adios Humboldt County as we've known it for the last couple generations, it was sweet and sticky while it lasted.**

Look around, take a mental photograph folks, for what we see today is not what will be a few years from now, just like what we saw a few years ago was nothing like what we saw a few years before that and so on, exponentially. As much as propaganda would have you buying that "legalization is for the best," I am betting big on the contrary. At the very least legalization has cast shadows of doubt, and for many it brings the end of their very livelihoods, undoubtedly causing a ripple effect throughout the entire community.

Regardless of your awareness or involvement, the economy is currently in a grave state of collapse in and out of cannabiz as a direct result of legalization. Here are some of the biggest flaws surrounding legalization that will cause even more damage while increasing the number of people in cycles of total decline:

**1. Lack of cultural awareness for the free market farmer mentality nor any regard for basic economics.** Last I checked the back to the landers- Those who revitalized Humboldt county, back from the decaying logging industry, represented an anti-government and anti-capitalist sentiment. Veterans, environmentalists and activists built this community. Now we are all meant to trust the capitalist-driven government, pay taxes for war, and live in opposite-land?

One cannot expect literally thousands of families who have made a living growing a plant for generations to just uproot their concept of reality and pick up to work for a small fraction of what they are used to making at the gas station instead. That is not how people, careers or economies work, and especially not for self-sustaining types. These folks "make it happen" and have proved this with generations of ingenuity, bush divin', forest rompin' and general renegading. So no doubt it's back to creative shade grown varieties (here's to finding a buyer!) and infamous days of intense Government harassment such as CAMP. Don't forget to trade your casual kicking-back-on-the-farm flip-flops for jogging shoes, you just may need them in the coming years, when cannabis is legal ("only for the rich").

**2. What is it about the assumption that if you grow you are wealthy? It seems you have to be a millionaire to get a cannabis permit and even generally wealthy to consume it legally. If you're not rich you can't afford to "pay to play,"** As Supervisor Rex Bohn said in a general BOS meeting and District 2 Supervisor clearly doesn't even consider small farmers in the legalization equation. All growers are "big business" according to Estelle Fennel, who said, "We're talking about giving big business a break and I don't understand why," when she spoke on behalf of her efforts to increase taxes on cultivators in the same May 23, 2017 supervisors meeting. This formula exacerbates economic inequality, and leaves the wealth and future of the community in the hands of a small minority- for better or worse.

Cannabiz Continues on page 15

## DREAMING KING'S DREAM BEYOND THE NIGHTMARE

**Martin Luther King, jr. was born on Jan.15 in the year 1929.** He was murdered by the forces of Empire on April 4, 1968 at the age of 39. In my unpublished classic scifi he is still alive and has just turned 88, thanks to the work of a brilliant gang of college students. They have found a way to return to the past in 1968 and foiled the assassination attempt in Memphis.

**What a movie in the making.** A real thriller. The roles of the students are played by the fresh faces in independent video. You fill in the blanks: a mad stoner mathematician and his brilliant physicist girlfriend along with her sister, a history grad student who has just rejected a Rhodes scholarship and her boyfriend, the college jock supreme, up for a Heisman trophy. They even have a dog named, you guessed it, Scoobie-Doo.

**King goes on to live out his dream,** which was now a plan. His Resurrection City becomes a reality. His Poor Peoples' Campaign involves 3000 Blacks, Chicanos, Native Americans, Appalachian Whites, males and females, from five rural areas and ten major cities, trained for months in nonviolence and moved by cinematic Mule Trains and housed in a vast tent city in Washington D.C. Their arrival sets off a series of stunning direct actions, occupations, confrontations, ending in a mass demonstration to rival any other.

**The government is paralyzed.** Its role in the assassination attempt -Hoover and the FBI, military from the Vietnam Phoenix program, and a whole raft of characters including the New Orleans Mafia that killed JFK, the Klan, several all powerful Oil Millionaires, Congressman George Bush, father of G.Dub, anti-Castro Cubans - everybody's role is revealed, even the passively complicit President MacBird, aka Lyndon Johnson.

**Hundreds of thousands of recruits keep rolling in** from campuses and ghettos and countrysides and small towns with ministers and nuns and priests and folk singers (Bob Dylan has second thoughts and writes a peace opera starring Joan Baez). Together like never before they join in a campaign of disruption and dislocation at federal agencies and at Corporate Headquarters not only in Washington, but Wall Street and Main Streets. Corporate Chairs and their underlings flee to offshore havens.

**Stokely Carmichael and Tom Hayden and Abby Hoffman** are among the would-be violent radicals who flock to the nonviolent struggle. Johnson's reliance on the army collapses when soldiers stick flowers in the barrels of their guns and join the demonstrators. Johnson resigns, Hoover has a nervous breakdown and appears in Congress in an evening gown. Humphrey resigns. The Halls of Congress are filled with hippies smoking dope

**Bobby Kennedy, slated for elimination after King,** finds that his life has been spared in the confusion (not by our time traveling college kids who had already decided they didn't have the time to save that neoliberal brother of his, JFK). Bobby is elected- practically selected by King - as President while the storm troopers of George Wallace are disarmed in their attack. Wallace himself sees the light, a little earlier than he actually did. Bobby goes on to form a revolutionary Congress where the House of Representatives is chosen in a nationwide lottery, mocking yet imitating the lottery that was to succeed the draft. In formulating a new constitution the radical ecologists take part on behalf of the Hall of Life, once called the Senate, representing the species that humans share the planet with..

**King - who was always an avowed Democratic Socialist** - taps into the American tradition of William Lloyd Garrison, Susan B. Anthony and Eugene V. Debs. His movement reincarnates the urgency of the abolitionists, the suffragettes, the labor movement, the Populists, Coxe's Army and the Bonus March. The economic system is upended and the Department of Labor under the tutelage of Michael Harrington formulates a democratically socialist America.

**Of course that is not the end of the movie.** When the kids return from their time traveling, they find that King has been assassinated in 1974 by another government/business conspiracy, this time led by forces surrounding the California Governor, an exHollywood B movie actor named Reagan. Studying the historical record, our time traveling kids need to return to save King once more.

**Their task turns out to require a lifetime of attention,** with King murdered by forces of Empire again in 1986, 1999 and - here is the shocker - 2018. The grand old man of Nonviolence has never ceased to be a worker for good and the focus of evil, but this time there is no time machine to save him IN REAL TIME. And evil's focus now is a warped businessman with the strangest name - Trump? Our college kids must address themselves to the hard fact that the revolution is never over and that it is just as important to carry it on in 2018 as it was in 1968. To the streets, to the suites, to the heart of the matter.

**King's Revolution never dies if we refuse to let it.**

Paul Encimer

## Vulnerability Intentionally Exploited

Founding president **Sean Parker**, whose stake in Facebook made him a billionaire, described how in the early days people would tell him they weren't on social media because they valued their real-life interactions.

**"And I would say, 'OK. You know, you will be, I don't know if I really understood the consequences of what I was saying.'"**

Facebook's founders knew they were creating something addictive that exploited **"a vulnerability in human psychology."**

The objective was: **"How do we consume as much of your time and conscious attention as possible?"**

Features such as the "like" button developed to give users **"a little dopamine hit"** to encourage them to upload more content.

When a network grows to have more than 2 billion users-

**"It literally changes your relationship with society, with each other. It probably interferes with productivity in weird ways. God only knows what it's doing to our children's brains."**

**"It's a social-validation feedback loop ... exactly the kind of thing that a hacker like myself would come up with, because you're exploiting a vulnerability in human psychology."**