



'R' WE READY?

When us hippies came pouring into SoHum like Libyan refugees, at least we didn't have a body of water to cross. Of course we started out by continuing as we had – criticizing everything in sight whether we knew something or not. Poor locals had to defend everything that had been done bad – and there was plenty – as if they were personally responsible, and doing so out of an instinct for self-defense when attacked and just basic cultural solidarity.

Ironic that almost immediately the Marijuana Industry put us hippies in the same position – defending ourselves from charges of doing harm - mostly by averting our glance from the agricultural crimes that a neighbor down the road *might be* committing – out of an instinct of self-defense and just counter-cultural solidarity. Given the County's instinctive respect for money, however made, there was no one to publically stand out against environmental degradation if it was being done on behalf of - money. Granted some of us (me) called the boom a gold rush, but that was just *moral jabber* in a vacuum of unenforcement.

This has placed us in the weakest possible situation in the face of the County's greedy and revengeful little Abatement scam. The imagined and unfortunately real environmental damage that money creates gave the Deep County conspirators moral credibility when they finally came "to clean us up." This was still *jabber* of course because the County's Eureka based "Elite" doesn't have the *E-words* – Ethics, Environmentalism – in its vocabulary. But too many of us were already suffering from a painful Industrial Hangover. Stirring helplessly in our heads was what was left of our once proud environmental sensibility. This was prompting us into imagining the worst. Mexican, Bulgarian even Canadian "Mafias" offered us a projected *shadow* of the actuality that it might be our own native "Mafias" doing harm. We were unable - in the thriving black market marijuana economy - to even dare to think about prying into our neighbor's expansive curtilage.

The County stepped nastily into this moral vacuum. Unfortunately its moral vacuum cleaner has never worked. Ask our Native Americans, the Chinese, the striking working people shot in the streets, and those made homeless by a gentrified Old Town. After all, the immorality of the County has overseen and fostered Gold Rush after Gold Rush. This marijuana rush has ultimately turned very sour, but the urban "elite" of the HumBayBeltway is too insulated to smell the rotten eggs of the once Golden Goose that flourished in SoHum in particular. **'R' WE READY Continues on page 15**

Cal State Officials Guilty of Manslaughter?

The roads must roll, as the philosopher said. And the Caltrans workers faithfully roll them even though here in the Northcoast the roads do more unraveling than rolling. And one thing not on their rolling schedule is the homeless who sleep near these rolling roads. In a grievance filed by the Caltrans workers union, it was argued that workers lack safety equipment and training for this kind of work. The objection to Caltrans workers clearing homeless camps was rejected by state officials four months ago.

A 33 year old woman named Shannon Bigley had recently began staying in an off Highway 99 encampment near Modesto. She was killed the first day of August, asleep in a cardboard box when she was struck and killed by heavy machinery operated by a Caltrans crew. They had been set to work clearing the encampment inhabiting a large grassy field beneath an overpass.

Bigley was from Oregon and her last known address was Stockton. CHP detectives determined that her death wasn't a homicide. In an email, Caltrans spokesman Chantel Vernon expressed sympathy for the family of Bigley.

Meanwhile, the workers Union re-filed their grievance, objecting to clearing homeless camps. Union spokesperson Steve Cough said it seeks a halt to the homeless camp cleanups by Caltrans maintenance workers. "If you look at their job classification, nowhere is it mentioned that they clean up homeless encampments," Cough said. The Modesto Bee reported that the homeless camp remains.



Shades of Charlottesville:

LOGGING TRUCK TARGETS FOREST DEFENDERS

A "Week of Action for the Mattole Forest" wrapped up with demonstrations and rallies at the **Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC)** corporate offices in Scotia, CA, and then heated up with road blockades nearby at HRC's lumber mill, as semi-trucks loaded with trees rolled into the facility. As demonstrators talked to some HRC employees and truckers and played music, suddenly a big rig truck with its bed folded up came from the mill and without slowing, plowed through the 15 ft. long banner, being held by people at either side, with others gathered around the banner. As people frantically leapt out of the way, yelling at the driver to stop, he kept going, narrowly missing a number of people as they scattered. The reckless act by the trucker at the HRC mill represents an escalation in threatening behavior, following on the heels of HRC's hiring of paramilitary security contractors to clear protesters out of the forest.

At issue for the Mattole Forest Defenders is a forest area containing ancient Doug fir trees and threatened species habitat in the Rainbow Ridge area of HRC holdings in the Mattole River watershed in Humboldt County. Residents, restorationists and activists have long advocated for protection of this forest, part of the large acreage purchased by HRC when it formed as an outgrowth of Mendocino Redwood Company, both owned by the Fisher family, whose retail empire includes the Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy stores. The land changed hands when the former owner, Maxxam's Pacific Lumber, went bankrupt in 2008 after their rapacious logging of ancient redwood forests spawned the so-called "timber wars" of the late 80's, 90's and early 2000's.

Residents and restoration workers of the Mattole area formed **The Lost Coast League** to try to purchase the 1,100-acre Rainbow Ridge forest as a way to preserve the unique forest refuge that supports many rare and threatened species including the Pacific Fisher, Northern Spotted Owl, Coho and Chinook Salmon, Northern Goshawk, and a large, rare and old-growth dependent medicinal mushroom, the Agarikon (*Laricifomes officinalis*).

The Forest Defenders, separate from the Lost Coast League but with the same interests, have been using direct action, tree-sits, blockades and forest occupations to hold proposed logging at bay while others try to negotiate with the corporation. The forest activists are regrouping as the week of action wraps up, intending to carry the forest defense campaign forward for as long as the forest is threatened with herbicides and logging.

Video of the of the truck barreling through the line of people incident can be found at https://youtu.be/0g_qUy6EThM

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Vintage Pence:

"A President Should Be Impeached For Moral Failings"

VP Mike Pence once argued that a president should be impeached for moral failings like lying to the public and cheating on a spouse.

As radio host and congressional candidate Pence wrote several columns in the 1990's arguing that President Bill Clinton should be impeached because of his extramarital affair with Monica Lewinsky and because the president was caught lying to the public about the affair.

In fact, Pence wrote two columns arguing that congress had a moral duty to impeach a lying and cheating president.

One of the columns, "The Two Schools of Thought on Clinton," was posted on his now-defunct website for his radio talk show. Another column, "Why Clinton Must Resign or Be Impeached," was posted on his congressional campaign website.

In his column "Why Clinton Must Resign or Be Impeached," Pence wrote:

"Further, the Presidents repeated lies to the American people in this matter compound the case against him as they demonstrate his failure to protect the institution of the presidency as the inspiring supreme symbol of all that is highest in our American ideals. Leaders affect the lives of families far beyond their own 'private life'.

Pence continued to make his case by referencing the Bible:

"In the Bible story of Esther we are told of a king who was charged to put right his own household because there would be "no end of disrespect and discord" among the families of the kingdom if he failed to do so. In a day when reckless extramarital sexual activity is manifesting itself in our staggering rates of illegitimacy and divorce, now more than ever, America needs to be able to look to her First Family as role models of all that we have been and can be again. "

And in his "The Two Schools of Thought on Clinton," Pence wrote:

"If you and I fall into bad moral habits, we can harm our families, our employers and our friends. The President of the United States can incinerate the planet. Seriously, the very idea that we ought to have at or less than the same moral demands placed on the Chief Executive that we place on our next door neighbor is ludicrous and dangerous,

Throughout our history, we have seen the presidency as the repository of all of our highest hopes and ideals and values. To demand less is to do an injustice to the blood that bought our freedoms."

In both columns Pence clearly and forcefully argues that the president of the United States should be held to the highest moral standards, and if he is caught covering up an extra-marital affair and lying about it to the American public that president should resign or be removed from office.

Bottom line: In the 1990's Mike Pence argued a president should be impeached if caught covering up an extra-marital affair and lying about it to the American public, and in 2018 Pence happily serves under Donald Trump.

The hypocrisy is undeniable.

-Michael Stone
patheos.com