



Cannabis: '...Times They Are a Changin'

As the season changes in Humboldt County, it's clear that the times are 'a changin' as well. If you're a small farmer you know that those changes are not for the better, but instead more reflective of a war against the back-to-the-lander cultural in full force. Few are swimming, but more are sinking like stones.

Gone are the days when a small family could live on a few plants or a greenhouse full of fruits, vegetables and medicine. In fact simply having a greenhouse or a field of food (in southern Humboldt especially) makes you an assumed criminal now according to Humboldt County. Many small farmers are guilty until they dish out thousands and thousands of dollars to the county, biologists, engineers, and lawyers to prove their innocence.

If you are one of the lucky farmers who are enjoying a full term harvest right about now, may you recognize how sacred the experience is and equally how fragile the future. Many of your neighbors did not enjoy the same fate of a prosperous harvest, instead a forced abatement leaving them with unusable **nugs**, if any, often no pay for workers, endless fines and fees and at least a year wasted, if not a lifetime in infrastructure. Tis' the year of rainwater catchment ponds being bled out and buried amidst a drought and ongoing threat of fire, of engineers and biologists marching all over the county to disprove some pretty ridiculous claims. Tis' the year of workers flooding the streets with no hope to gain employment, of premature buds, and wasted plastic piled up at the dump.

The drone of claims of environmental sustainability blares on as the county, has farmers throwing away their means to provide themselves with their own food and medicine. Mother earth must be so thoroughly confused by modern scenes where small farmers are closing up their permaculture paradise, as mega monocrop farms prevail.

Of the estimated 10k cultivation sites in Humboldt County, over 2000 applications were submitted for permits, and only 254 have been approved. My public information's request in late September reveals only 10, or 4% of 254 approved county permits(222 of 254 report their size) are less than 3,000 sq. ft., while 47 or 21% are 20k sq. ft. and over. This demonstrates three obvious facts. 1) There is a shift away from small farms in place of Humboldt County coddling the inherently more environmentally demanding mega grows, 2) The overwhelming cost of getting and staying permitted forces folks to expand, and rewards those who have already, and 3) The lack of ability for small farms to enjoy Humboldt County's permitted process or hope for a future in the legal canna-business.

So far this year the county has distributed over twice the number of notices to abate than approved permits at approximately 600, averaging 40 a week in recent months. The communities of Whitethorn, Mattole Valley (?), Briceland, Ettersberg, Benbow and (on several occasions) Rancho Sequoia just to name a few got hit hard by abatements last month. Some received notice in the online Times Standard, others did not. Some received notice on their gates, found a post on community bulletin boards, or random nearby trees, others discovered the news via certified mail. The Planning and Building Dept. claims all notices other than their (often failed) gate postings are a "courtesy." Legal minds disagree.

The ten-day abatement deadline is virtually impossible to meet. Often times it takes many weeks to remove greenhouses, or meet with engineers to write off the claimed degradation. In many cases it takes much longer to apply for or obtain required permits and resolve the alleged violations, more often false and/or purchased with the properties in question. Many abatement recipients are elderly and disabled and so unable to meet the abatement demands let alone a lawyer in time. Consequentially all across this county often elderly women and men are hustling day in and out, while working full time jobs, having to walk through the sometimes pouring rain in the dark, with hands bloodied from working to tear down their greenhouses that once stood as flag of their independence and environmental consciousness. Many abatement victims report immense stress, inability to eat, deteriorating health and laying awake at night, ill from county attacks. Humboldt County's actions are abusive on so many levels, entirely unjust, against all notions of environmental consciousness, and all that is sacred.

It is a mind-numbing slap in the face to consider what happens in Mendocino, where one farmer without a permit was approached by the sheriff, told to abate, immediately did and faced no fine, let alone 10 thousand plus daily. Notice how the environmental impact, and the outcome is the same in both instances. Yet also notice the contrasted impact on the farmer and community, when compared to what many Humboltians are facing today.

Here in Humboldt, District 2 Supervisor Estelle Fennell's ongoing propaganda campaign that completely counters reality, sounds like nails on a chalkboard to those on the front lines of the ongoing war on cannabis and off-grid living. We know that abatements are not only violent but also entirely unnecessary if the permit process was feasible for the majority of small farmers. We also know very well that crafting a comprehensive permit process is easy, when we look at other CA counties.



Trump needs a war – now.

A good war inspires the corporate fake media with fake confidence and creates a totalitarian sense of solidarity in the citizenry – or else. Time may be for an October Surprise, a big war involving Americans on the ground, erasing the Kavanaugh fiasco and improving Republican chances in November. The original October Surprise was a deal between the yet unelected Ronald Reagan to prevent the release of the Iranian hostages (Americans held in the US Embassy taken over by Iranian radicals in retaliation for Pres. Carter allowing the deposed Shah of Iran to enter the US for "medical care."). It worked. Iran got weaponry stuff and the hostages were released minutes after Reagan's inaugural. The term October Surprise was used later by journalists who believed that George Bush the elder was preparing such a surprise in order to beat Clinton.

So what's the surprise? Maybe that we all have our eye on Battlefield Iran. Isn't that what Netanyahu wants?. But reigniting the war in..the Ukraine? That's a surprise. Trump and Putin with a heart around them. What's in it for Israel? It's supposed to be Iran, but maybe Hilary got the right signals from the Deep State. Russia. Now we have first hand reports from the Czech Republic adding substance to the possibilities of escalation against Russia in the Ukraine. This is the preparation for the NATO deployment of NATO operational tanks through the territory of the Czech Republic which Czech locals - witnessing the tanks on trains rolling at night through darkened railways stations - call the largest war operation in history.

Enter NATO bridge construction for NATO heavy-duty construction! The bridges have to be strengthened because they will carry tanks, self-propelled howitzers, engineering troops, anti-missile complexes, short and medium range rocket carriers. These are transports weighing tens and tens of tons, to which the Czech bridges are not ready.

And if you are interested in how much the fun will cost, then you know that it will attract a European fund of € 6.5 billion by 2021, a fund that will cover the cost of bridge reinforcement across Eastern Europe to the eastern front on the Russian battlefield! *Dragounská ride!* This is needed for the American Abrams tanks, the German Leopards and the British Challengers.

Because heavy rail transport is usually used by railways, it is clear what is happening. I can assure you that reinforcing the bridges will definitely not be paid for by the Czech Republic just to have the US Army's Dragons' promotional rides once or twice a year. No, they will not sink tens of billions of cash into strengthening bridges across the country. In a brilliantly ironic move, Deputy Chairman of the Defense Committee of the Czech Chamber of Deputies, Radovan Vích, proposed that the funds for this reinforcement of bridges in the Czech Republic could be transferred from the budget of the Ministry of Transport to the budget of the Ministry of Defense. Then the Czech Republic could declare these funds spent on bridges to be their part of increasing its military spending helping satisfy the commitment made to Trump during his last NATO tantrum.

Russia's new mid-range missile deployments are the reason for NATO's preparation for a preventive strike against the Russian Federation! The American neocons have married Europe to a war with Russia, though Europeans are no longer ready to do so! The US ambassador to NATO in Brussels gave a fright to many generals of European armies. Such open military threats to Russia have not been heard even during the Cold War.

Answering questions at NATO headquarters, Ambassador Hutchison suggested that the United States was getting ready to document Russian violations of the treaty based on new information "we have uncovered. We are asking our allies for their suggestions on a way forward that would bring Russia into compliance, because that is our goal: Russia in compliance," she said, comments that echoed past statements in the Obama and Trump administrations. But Hutchison also warned that if Russia did not change course, the United States might field its own weapons, which would require going ahead with "a development phase that is not allowed by the INF treaty right now." INF was the 1987 agreement between America and Russia to eliminate their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles.

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"Social media isn't evil- There are neuroscientists in some of these companies.

For the most part I don't think it was done maliciously. But advertising is the business model. And if advertising is the business model-- our attention becomes the product. Two variables matter to the bottom line: the amount of users and the amount of time they spend on platform. And what gets measured gets optimized. **So our phones have become slot machines.** We scroll and scroll and scroll, and eventually we hit something that gives us a dopamine reward. It's by design. Because slot machines make more money in the U.S. than theme parks, baseball, and movies combined. Both Vegas and Silicon Valley know that our brains can be manipulated if presented with a certain set of choices. Obviously addictiveness isn't the only feature of these platforms. They've empowered so many voices. I'd just love to live in a world where our most influential technology didn't measure its success by the time it took from us."

-Humans of New York

