

Plant that Bell & Let it Ring.

The game changing advent of Legal Weed is here, aligning law with the reality of a widely popular, generations old behavior, but, for the average consumer what will really change? Local focus has been on the changes for growers, the pros and cons for wannabe industrial producers, and retailers (yawn) but the law prohibiting possession and use never had much traction amongst devoted users.

Even with prohibition, in decades of casual use, common to a life of creativity, I never experienced a time that if I wanted to get high I couldn't. Pot has always been available. It could always be purchased, traded, shared or grown, when ever desired. It was never scarce, perhaps overpriced, but having a sunny patch of ground easily removes that obstacle. When and where to smoke weed was only rarely considered with an eye to the law, and with a little discretion, never a big problem.

Now every one in the state can legally grow their own 6 plants, keep the entire yield of those plants, and share it an ounce at a time. Theoretically, here in sunny California, that fact alone could eventually crash the pot economy, Especially as people find out there is no mystery to growing this vigorous plant. All but the fiendish user should easily be capable of growing a year's supply during the appropriate season.

It remains to be seen how an abundant supply of legal weed will affect everything from the local economy to worker productivity. But in the short term there are reasons to celebrate. The use of a naturally occurring plant substance that alters mood, and perception desirably, should never have been illegal. It was always absurd that the victimless "crime" of getting high, a widely



popular and safe practice, led to tens of thousands of Californians getting arrested for marijuana infractions each year.

But civil rights issues aside, a critical component of the new regulations seeks to give to consumers who choose to purchase the stash they 'need,' enhanced safety. How this pans out and the implications of advanced testing for say, food is a big question.

But, industrial scale growing has spawned a dependence on crop chemicals- over fertilized super plants, grown in crowded, mono-crop conditions that encourage disease and infestation. While unscrupulous farmers have relied on chemical controls, this practice will now be scrutinized by mandatory testing of legally permitted crops.

The Black Market may offer a cheaper high, but as a consumer what will your priority be? State regulation hope to insure the consumer a safe, tracked, tested, and certified product.

Industrial scale production & commercial competition, will affect testing labs too. (see page 12 for a cogent discussion of the details of the problems faced by testing labs)

With industrial production assured by the new law, retail access will easily supply the in-state, buzz seeking public- and after all, you can only get so high, right?

Or, what if all the potent extracts high-end heads are clamoring for over-amps everyones cannabinoid receptors, creating a resistance that requires more and more? A perfect business plan.

Who knows- as smoking a little 'Boo' with your buddies turns into billboard driven chain stores.

Be aware, testing requirements will phase in, apply to new crops only- old stock may still be sold, and could be of questionable safety. Of course now you can avoid the whole issue and grow your own high.

Don't forget to share.

Joshua Golden

MUIR REPORT: The Race is Over. The Rats Won.

"History doesn't repeat itself,
but it does rhyme" - Mark Twain

Once again, Garberville was ahead of the curve in doing mean things to homeless people. Fences are now appearing around public gathering spots in Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, as far away as North San Juan, in the Sierra Mountains. Ugh, poor people, who wants them hanging around pooping all over the place? Kudos to Garberville, however, for having the foresight and the will to build places where people can practice good hygiene. Let's hope the rest of the country follows the leader.

Napa County housing REITS, (Real Estate Investment Trusts) should get an award for promoting homelessness by giving what is euphemistically called, "no fault" evictions to hundreds of residents living in apartments who survived the fire only to be told they must vacate their premises in 60 days to make room for people who will pay more money. No fault is their kind way of saying, these tenants were good to the property and paid their rent faithfully, many for over 10 years, but screw you now, there is a buck to be made.

This is what happens in areas with no rent control or renter's rights. The property owners' right to make a profit supersedes the tenants right to shelter. This is a new low in greediness. For these renters, the rat race is over. The rats won. The prime argument against rent control is it drives up the rents of the other tenants, but has anyone ever heard of a landlord lowering the rent after a rent controlled apartment was vacated? The landlords feel persecuted as they say they are in the only business that cannot set its price using supply and demand as a yardstick. Roll out the guillotine...

The assault on poor people continues. Taxes on cigarettes and liquor have been raised once again, under the guise of keeping the poor healthy. Bollux to the fact many of them are sleeping on concrete, have no medical care and little to eat, we don't want them getting cancer or cirrhosis, we may have to foot the medical bill. If we really cared about their health, we should give them a voucher for the taxes, to buy healthy food.

The new protest season kicks off in January with the women's march, MLK day demonstrations and tax reform gatherings. The "poor tour," a collection of Berkeley

homeless, our version of the last Rolling Stones tour, move their tents into different parts of the city until they are driven out by the police. They are now camped out in front of the Berkeley Municipal building. If you are in town, stop by with a ham hock or a thermos of coffee.

In San Francisco, the police have instituted a new policy of fining people 1300 dollars for sleeping outdoors, that's right 1300 dollars per offense, which begs the question, if you had 1300 dollars why would you be sleeping in the street? This is the same city that paid thousands of dollars to buy piss-repellent paint and apply it to the buildings and sidewalks so the homeless would be drenched in their own urine. They did not consider that the paint could not distinguish between dogs and people or pee and rain. I think we may be smarter than that. Let's try to get together and not let the powers that be disrupt our unity. After all, the upper crust is merely a bunch of crumbs held together by dough...

Muirwalker

